Hafa Adai!

75¢

CWs eligible for $980K assistance for fishermen. PAGE 2

Hopwood gets $25.1M, OES gets $2.3M for Yutu repairs. PAGE 3

# Saipan Tribune

Volume XXX, Issue No. 242
**MONDAY** DECEMBER 7, 2020
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## E-Land unveils new Pau Pau restrooms

Brian Shin, fifth from right, chief executive officer of Micronesian Resort Inc., leads governments officials and business leaders for E-Land Group's unveiling of the newly repaired Pau Pau Beach Public Restroom last Saturday, Dec. 5.
JUSTINE NAUTA

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The renovated restrooms at Pau Pau Beach in San Roque are now officially unveiled but they're not open to the public just yet.

The E-Land Group, as one of the companies that have signed on to the Public-Private Partnership Initiative of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the

See E-LAND on Page 4

# 3 test positive for COVID-19

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI community goes 110 days today with no community transmission but its number of positive COVID-19 cases went up three notches last Dec. 5, with three more travelers testing positive and raising the CNMI's cumulative total to 109.

According to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., these three travelers came from the U.S. mainland had tested positive upon arrival. They were brought to the Alternative Care Site site at Kanoa Resort in Susupe and CHCC has already conducted the initial contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the three new cases, including passengers on the same flight.

See COVID-19 on Page 4

## Entire COTA fleet now has WiFi

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority announced yesterday that it is now has free WiFi on all COTA vehicles.

"The free WiFi service is part of COTA's effort to launch a state-of-the-art next-generation fare collec-

See COTA on Page 4

## Workers want to get money from IPI before departure

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Over 30 Turkish and Italians H2B workers held a peaceful protest last Friday at IPI's Human Resources office along Isa Drive in Sadog Tasi over Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's alleged nonpayment of their payrolls and other promised benefits.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still waiting for comments from IPI.

Giuseppe Santacroce, who is the leader of the nine Italian workers, said they protested last Tuesday and again last Friday after learning that IPI

See WORKERS on Page 4

## COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

**LEGEND:**
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

*Source: Office of the Governor*

## AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Dec. 3, 2020

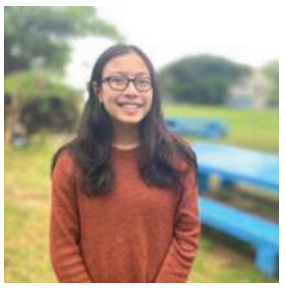
| GUAM | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Positive | 6,920 | 84 | 7,004 |
| Recovered | 6,005 | 51 | 6,056 |
| Active | 751 | 84 | 835 |
| Deaths | 112 | 1 | 113 |
| Cumulative Number of Persons Tested | | | 85,864 |

| SAIPAN | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Positive | 106 | 3 | 109 |
| Traced via Travel Screening | 80 | 3 | 83 |
| Traced via Community Screening | 26 | 0 | 26 |
| Deaths | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Cumulative Number of Persons Tested | | | 22,633* |
| Days since last community transmission | | | 109 |

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The CHCC COVID-19 dashboard will be undergoing maintenance until further notice.

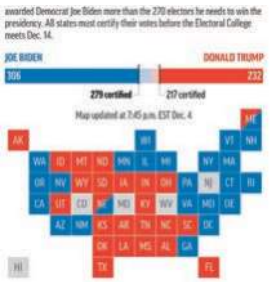
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

## INSIDE



**LOCAL**
Mount Carmel School senior Victoria Santos wins a full-ride scholarship to Rice University.

PAGE 6




**NATION**
California officially hands Joe Biden the Electoral College majority to win the White House.

PAGE 13

**LIFE & STYLE**
Another towering monolith pops up and vanishes from the pinnacle of a trail in California.

PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

# Local

# CW workers eligible for $980K assistance for fishermen

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Foreign workers—worker under the CNMI-Only Transitional Workers program—are eligible to tap into the $980,000 Coronavirus, Recovery, and Economic Security Act's assistance to commercial fishermen and subsistence fishermen in the CNMI affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Division of Fish and Wildlife director Manny Pangelinan.

To qualify, these CW workers must be in the fishing industry and are here legally or have a current approved immigration status, added Pangelinan, speaking at a radio news briefing last Wednesday.

On Monday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Pangelinan announced the allocation of $980,000 through the CARES ACT, after the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration approved the CNMI's CARES Act "Spending Plan."

Torres said all resident fishermen and qualified fishing businesses who sustained losses are eligible.

At that press conference, Pangelinan said it's up to the state to determine whether CW workers are allowed or not to avail of this assistance. Torres later told Pangelinan to take the lead on this.

When asked to clarify in that Monday's press conference whether CW workers are eligible to apply for the cash assitance, Torres said they are going to go back and discussed it thoroughly. Torres said they are going to see what that formula is, but hinted that they want to make this as flexible as they can.

Pangelinan

All eligible applicants will receive assistance based on an approved formula that will determine the amounts of help for businesses and individual fishermen.

At Wednesday's radio news briefing, Pangelinan said even a subsistence fisherman who will claim to have a $200 loss, he or she will still get some money based on the calculation that they have established.

Pangelinan said they started distributing application forms last Wednesday.

As of Tuesday, 16 came in to the Saipan Mayor's Office to get the application forms, while 23 got the forms from the Division of Fish and Wildlife, he said.

Pangelinan has yet to receive a report on how many people got forms from the the Tinian and Rota mayor's offices, Governor's Office, and from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, which also distributes the forms.

It is estimated that thousands of people and fishing businesses will be eligible for this assistance, but

Pangelinan said they have no estimate as to how many are eligible on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"It is very difficult to quantify that because there's a lot of subsistence fishermen," Pangelinan said.

He said it is easier to quantify commercial fishermen, aquaculture fishermen, fish processors, and fish dealers.

The director said subsistence fishermen are those doing rod and reel, or spear fishing, or even cast net.

Pangelinan said they have started a public outreach to inform everybody about this program to help relieve some of the economic loses of fishermen in the CNMI.

The CNMI government is not going to release the money; it's the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. The distribution of assistance checks to approved businesses and fishermen will be made directly via mail from the NOAA Hawaii Office between May 3 and June 16, 2021.

Press secretary Kevin Bautista earlier that Torres specifically made a request to include the eligibility of CW workers and everyone regardless of immigration status who are fishermen and fall into those eligible categories.

"The CNMI government has the discretion to distribute the funds. It looks like we'll be able to provide those benefits to fishermen, regardless of their immigration status as long as they fit the categories prescribed under the CARES Act program," Bautista said.

CONGRESSMAN
GREGORIO KILILI
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To access the nomination application or for more information, visit sablan.house.gov or call 670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota.
This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.

## McPhetres wants NMTI to reopen in phases

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Agnes McPhetres, chief executive officer of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, wants to reopen the school in three phases.

Of particular urgency for McPhetres are the NMTI classes that were suspended in March because of the COVID-19 pandemic. She wants those classes o resume at once so students can complete the modules.

During the NMTI regular board meeting on Wednesday, McPhetres told the board of directors that they can open the trade school in three phases, with Phase 1 focusing on classes that are deemed essential and can start immediately, while phases 2 and 3 can start at a later time. She did not specify what phases 2 and 3 will entail, merely saying she will discuss this in more detail at their next meeting. It was not immediately known when the next meeting will take place.

"We have a commitment that we have to do immediately. For example, we have a contract with the PSS for electrical and maintenance courses. We have not fulfilled that obligation. They are under Phase 1 and I would like as much as possible that they could continue," she said.

McPhetres pointed out that they have some leftover CNMI-Only Transitional Worker funds, which will allow them to reopen as soon as possible. Using an educational tax credit donation, NMTI was able to contract a programmer that will enhance the school's database, including their online registration, McPhetres said.

While the online registration is still in the works, McPhetres asked NMTI instructors to contact their students in order to give NMTI an idea of how many students are willing to register for the new term, which she suggested in January.

# Hopwood gets $25.1M, OES gets $2.3M for Yutu repairs

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has officially awarded $25,112,198 for the repairs and replacement of buildings for Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School and $2,266,788 for the repairs of Oleai Elementary School due to damage sustained from Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

"From the very beginning of the recovery from Super Typhoon Yutu, we worked extremely hard to restore power, water, and essential services for our community. Together with FEMA, we were able to build new homes through the Permanent Housing Construction program and repair damages on existing ones for families who have been severely impacted," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in announcing the grant award last Thursday. "With this latest funding approval, we can continue our work on our hardest hit schools like Hopwood and Oleai so that we can give our students and teachers a great place to learn and grow. We look forward to building new school buildings, repair damaged facilities, and create school campuses that will have the potential to be some of the best in the Pacific.

"Our administration's partnership with FEMA and the White House is an important one, and it shows what can be accomplished when we work together for our people. On behalf of the CNMI, Lt. Gov. [Arnold I.] Palacios and I want to thank FEMA Region IX administrator Robert J. Fenton Jr. for advocating for our needs. I also want to thank our [governor's authorized representative] Virginia Villagomez and our Public Assistance team for making sure we provide the proper justification for our federal partners. This is great news for the Commonwealth, and together, we will continue our work in building a stronger Marianas," added Torres.

Torres

The $25.1 million for Hopwood Middle School will include a full facility replacement of the administrative and library facility, repairs across the whole campus, new electrical, plumbing, and air-conditioning systems, installation of new roofing, windows, doors, and flooring, and the addition of American with Disabilities Act access features such as entrance ramps for people in wheelchairs.

The $2.3 million for Oleai Elementary School will include replacement of air conditioning units, removal and replacement of lights, walls, doors, and floorings in classrooms, restrooms, and the cafeteria building.

Villagomez said the CNMI will continue its work on typhoon-related recovery. "The CNMI will remain firm in its commitment to prioritize mitigation projects that will protect life and property in our community [and] strengthen and improve our mitigation efforts throughout the Commonwealth. We are grateful for all the efforts that FEMA has driven to secure this approval and as partners, we look forward to successfully completing projects benefiting our community," she said. ***(PR)***

## Mobil Oil Marianas recommits to TTT

Mobil Oil Marianas has recommitted its support for the Tasi to Table Youth Program by donating another $2,500 last Dec. 5 for the club's eight-month-long program that aims to provide students an understanding of ocean preservation as well as the islands' fishery industry.

According to TTT, Mobil sees the benefits of supporting the youth program, not only by donating funds for the program but also by serving as mentors and showing up to functions and events coordinated by TTT.

"TTT is honored to have Mobil as a continued partner. We have shown tremendous growth for our program to educating our youth with various facets that include fishing, the environment, and building up themselves within the community," said TTT president Gene Weaver.

The students under the program are a mix of four of the Public School System's high schools, which are Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, and Da'ok Academy. TTT used to be under the Saipan Fishermen's Association but has since been spun off and is now an incorporated entity.

According to Malaina Kileleman, Mobil Oil Marianas Sales & Marketing representative, she's excited about the upcoming year for TTT because it is a great approach to engage the youth in fishing and the many aspects that surround it, from sustainability to research and job opportunities. ***(Justine Nauta)***

## Senate expands Rota, Tinian mayors' powers

**FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Senate passed on first and final reading last week a bill that will give the mayors of Rota and Tinian authority to concur on all Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse applications, programs, and funding for the two senatorial districts.

All eight senators present—Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), vice president Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Sens. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota), Paul A. Sablan (Ind-Rota), Francisco M. Borja (R-Tinian), Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), Vinnie F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), and Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan)—passed Senate Bill No. 21-56.

Sen. Justo Quitugua (R-Saipan) was absent but excused from the session.

The bill will now go to the House of Representatives.

The bill is authored by Hofschneider, Cruz, Borja, and Santos.

The Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse was created to establish a database of federal grants being received by the CNMI. These OGM-SC mandates apply to Tinian and Rota as well.

Since its creation, the mayors of Tinian and Rota have submitted to OGM-SC several requests for assistance, funding, equipment and training for their municipalities and employees, the senators said.

The senators said the OGM-SC has indeed provided such assistance to Tinian and Rota, but the equipment, programs, funding or recipients of such benefits were not always consistent with the mayor's policies. They said the mayor should determine what OGM-SC assistance is needed and where such assistance will go.

**Detecting a leak:** There are THREE ways to detect a gas leak (smell is the most common):

**SMELL** — To help you SMELL a gas leak, a familiar odor like rotten eggs is added to both natural gas and propane.
**SEE** — Near a leaking gas pipeline, you might SEE blowing dirt, bubbling water or an unusual area of dead vegetation.
**HEAR** — A leaking pipeline, appliance, storage tank or cylinder (propane only) might make a hissing sound you can HEAR.

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# 10-year sentence for drug-dealing couple

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The U.S District Court for the NMI has imposed a 10-year prison sentence on a couple who snuck 110.03 methamphetamine or "ice" through the U.S. Postal Service.

Last Friday, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona imposed a sentence of 120 months, or 10 years, on Vince Koki Leon Guerrero and his girlfriend, Evelyn Chong Tydingco, for possessing over 50 grams of methamphetamine with intent to distribute.

During the sentencing hearing, Manglona, on multiple occasions, compared the couple to the romantic tragedy of "Romeo and Juliet" because of Leon Guerrero's relentless efforts to incriminate himself further in hopes of a lighter sentence for his girlfriend.

Manglona noted that, although there is no death involved in this case like the original Romeo and Juliet, which ended in the death of the two lovers, she said the lives of both Tydingco and Leon Guerrero will be darkened for a period of time as they serve their sentences. However, Manglona said she is hopeful that the two will emerge from it better equipped to battle their drug addiction and ready to turn their lives around for their family.

Manglona

While on the stand and was being interviewed regarding text messages that were entered as evidence, Leon Guerrero continuously denied Tydingco's role as an organizer of the shipment and stated several times that she was just following his orders.

Manglona found the text messages, acquired from Leon Guerrero's mobile device, incriminating and found that Tydingco played a big role in the shipment as she was the one who negotiated the drug deal in Guam.

Theoretically, for being non-violent offenders, they could have pursued the "safety valve" provision in the Sentencing Reform Act and the United States Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which allows the court to impose a sentence below the statutory minimum for certain drug offenders. Individuals who qualify for the safety valve are usually nonviolent, non-managerial drug offenders with little or no criminal history.

However, for lying to the court, both individuals in this case were denied the safety valve and were given the statutory minimum penalty for the offense. They will be serving their respective sentences apart and away from their 1-year-old son.

Manglona said Leon Guerrero would have qualified for the safety valve if he had not incriminated himself and had not lied to the court.

Tydingco will be serving her sentence in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons in a facility within Seattle, Washington so she can be near her sister who just recently relocated there.

Leon Guerrero will be serving his sentence in a facility that has yet to be determined. But Leon Guerrero requested Manglona to recommend that he serve his time in a facility that allows him to take up a technical trade skill that he can use later in life once he is released back into society.

According to court documents, between Feb. 15 and 21, 2018, Leon Guerrero conspired with Tydingco and co-defendant Elaine Demei to possess over 50 grams of methamphetamine with intent to distribute on Saipan.

The package containing methamphetamine was sent from California and was addressed to "Debbie Lee."

On Feb. 21, 2018, upon arrival of the package, the three defendants picked up the parcel at the post office in San Vicente.

The methamphetamine in the package had a net weight of 110.03 grams and an approximate purity level of 100%.

Tydingco, Leon Guerrero, and Demei admitted to picking up a package from the post office.

## E-LAND

*From Page 1*

new restrooms last Dec. 4. It still has no running water but the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is working on making that happen soon.

According to Brian Shin, chief executive officer for Micronesia Resort Inc., the local holding company of E-Land Group that owns Kensington Hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Point & Country Club, the restroom, which holds one female and one male restroom stall and a shower outside the restroom, costs approximately $20,000.

E-Land Group has adopted the Pau Pau Beach where the renovated restroom is and is adjacent to the Kensington Hotel Saipan.

"It's been almost over a year. …We had to take this seriously because it's just right next to one of our facilities. Also, this is one of the very popular spots for locals, so we felt that this is important," said Shin. He said they had wanted to expedite the renovation but there were challenges along the way that they had to overcome.

The only thing that the bathroom is missing for it to be open to the public is that there is no running water. Shin stated that they have talked to CUC about this last Dec. 4. "I think there's a bit of a challenge to locate the line, because it's been out of commission for a while. I was told that they're expediting this process as well, so that the public actually can enjoy the benefit as soon as possible," said Shin.

There is no timeline on when the water will be running but Shin said that CUC has made it a priority to ensure that there will be running water at the site as soon as possible.

As for maintenance, according to Lindsay Ahn, Corporate Social Responsibility manager and executive assistant to Shin, the CNMI Division of Parks & Recreation will be the main agency that will be tasked with maintaining the facility.

Shin said that renovating the restrooms is part of preparing the CNMI once it reopens its borders to tourists. "At the end of the day, we felt that this is part of preparing ourselves for the return of our customers, which we hope that it's going to be soon but obviously we don't have a timeline yet. We felt that it's really important [that] we just get ready ourselves and make the place presentable for our tourists when they come," said Shin.

He promised that this project won't be the only one that the CNMI will see from Micronesia Resort Inc. or Kensington. "We have a plan in place to continue to improve the facilities of our facility. This is not the last one and I'm sure you're going to hear from us next year about more new projects," said Shin.

Senate President Victor Hocog (R-Rota), who attended the ribbon-cutting, said, "I'm happy to be here to support E-Land, with its community investment in helping the community move forward with the necessary facility to assist our picnickers here and people that will be using Pau Pau Beach in the future," said.

Hocog hopes that Precinct 4 representatives, who represent the area where Pau Pau Beach is, will help E-Land in its efforts to develop the north side of Saipan. He avowed that the Legislature will "stand ready" to assist in any development that E-Land introduces.

He also expressed his gratitude to the Governor's Council of Economic Adviser, which created the Public-Private Partnership Initiative and council co-chair Jerry Tan for assisting in the movement for economic development. "Although the pandemic is still around, we all hope that it will soon depart us, and we prepare to engage for a better future," he said.

## COVID-19

*From Page 1*

As of Dec. 5, there are four people in isolation, CHCC said.

Last Thursday, Dec. 3, a total of 144 people were tested on their fifth day of quarantine, and all tested negative.

Separately, CHCC reiterated the CNMI's quarantine procedures, saying the process has not changed: all travelers arriving into Saipan must quarantine for a minimum of five to seven days at a designated government quarantine facility.

"Upon arrival at the designated government quarantine facility, all travelers are required to undergo first-day testing [and then] a second time on the fifth day after their arrival date. If fifth-day testing returns negative, individuals may be released from the designated quarantine facility," said CHCC.

Incoming travelers must complete a CNMI mandatory declaration form. Obtain a copy of the form at governor.gov.mp/covid-19/travel/.

### COVID-19 in Guam

The Joint Information Center reported that Guam's 113th COVID-19-related fatality was a 63-year-old woman with underlying conditions that were further compounded by COVID-19.

The COVID-19-related fatality happened at the U.S. Naval Hospital at approximately 6:30am last Dec. 4. The 63-year-old female was admitted to USNH last Dec. 4, and was a known positive case.

"While the pain of losing a loved one never leaves, it is profoundly felt during the holiday season. To her family and friends, [first gentleman] Jeff [Cook], Lt. Gov. Josh [Tenorio], and I send our heartfelt condolences and sympathies," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero.

To date, there has been a total of 6,959 officially reported cases of COVID-19 in Guam, with 113 deaths, 790 cases in active isolation, and 6,056 not in active isolation.

Of these 17 cases, three cases were identified through contact tracing and one case reported recent travel and was identified in quarantine.

As of Dec. 4, Guam's COVID-19 Area Risk Score is 2.0, Guam's ideal score. The CAR Score accounts for the incidence of new cases, how well current testing identifies these cases, and the rate of spread.

## COTA

*From Page 1*

tion system, transit application, and route tracking service," said marketing specialist John DLG Demapan. "The service will work on all devices that have WiFi capability, so whether you are an incoming passenger arriving into Saipan and headed to the designated quarantine facility site, making your way to the clinic for an appointment, attending a class at the Northern Marianas College, going to your place of employment, or making a trip to the grocery store, COTA keeps you connected to the worldwide web. Just bring your cellphone, tablet, or laptop, and enjoy the free WiFi connectivity right in the palm of your hands."

Alfreda Maratita, who heads COTA as the special assistant for Public Transportation, said that connectivity is key in this day and age. "Now more than ever, especially as we continue to support the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, we understand how important the role technology plays in our everyday lives and how vital it is to keep up with these ever-changing demands and provide our riders with the tools and services to meet their needs," she said. "Free WiFi is a huge step in the right direction toward improving our services at COTA. We would like to thank Docomo Pacific for their swift services and continued partnership to execute these efforts. Our goal is to be able to offer this as an early Christmas present for our current and future riders. We are elated that we are able to accomplish this for our community."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that COTA continues to work hard this year on enhancing its services, especially in providing safe transportation for all arriving travelers into the CNMI.

"Everyone at COTA—from special assistant Maratita to our bus drivers to the dispatchers and administrative support staff—have worked diligently this last year, and they continue to innovate with these new services for our passengers. Lt. Gove. [Arnold I.] Palacios and I continue to make public transportation a top priority, and we look forward to expanding routes and services for our people, so they can choose public transportation for their day-to-day lives. Beyond the pandemic, it is our hope that our expanded public transportation system will help people get to new job opportunities, assist students get to class, and safely transport our *man'amko* to doctor appointments." ***(PR)***

## WORKERS

*From Page 1*

had already purchased their plane tickets for Dec. 10 flights, but they have yet to be paid their salaries and separation fees.

Santacroce said there are 28 other Turkish workers who are also complaining about being in the same situation.

He said the workers went to IPI's Human Resources office to talk with IPI's Human Resources director Redie Dela Cruz.

Santacroce said Dela Cruz showed up after police came and talked with him and the other workers.

He said that, according to Dela Cruz, IPI is trying to give them the money before their Dec. 10 departure date.

Santacroce said IPI owes the Italian workers only one payroll, while the Turkish workers are owed four to five payrolls. He said IPI, however, owes the Italian workers separation fees that date back to Sept. 26, which is equivalent to six months of payroll.

Santacroce said they don't want to leave the CNMI unless they get their money as they don't want to experience the same thing that IPI allegedly did to their other co-workers.

He said some workers who left the CNMI did not get their money—as had been promised—after going back to their home countries.

# Panel irons out dispute in cutting grace period to pay excise tax

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A Senate and the House of Representatives conference committee has ironed out their differences on a bill that proposes to reduce the 30-day grace period for importers to pay the excise tax on goods that require Customs inspection and clearance.

After deliberations last Thursday, the Senate conferees, led by chair Senate vice president Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and House conferees, led by chair Rep. John Paul A. Sablan (R-Saipan), arrived at a compromise to address those differences, which chiefly dealt with how long the grace period would be and which senatorial district the amended law would apply.

The current law allows taxpayers to pay the excise tax within 30 days after entry of the goods. The proposed bill will require taxpayers to pay the excise tax upon clearing Customs.

Sablan, who is the author of the bill, said in an interview that the Senate amendments included provisions that would only apply to Rota and Tinian, and not Saipan. "We thought that it's kind of unfair," he said.

When the conference committee sat down to iron out their differences, they just added Saipan to the bill, so it becomes a generalized Commonwealth-wide approach for all senatorial districts. "So it's pretty much a quick fix," Sablan said.

What took the committee much longer to resolve were to clarify issues, deliberate on the differences, and consult with their legal counsels on possible constitutional issues. "But we were able to address them and I am happy," said Sablan.

He said this bill will help the Division of Customs in collecting revenues. "So that's the full intent of this legislation—just to assist [and] give more tools for the Division of Customs to collect taxes, most especially [from short-term] businesses that are just subcontracts here for like three to six months," Sablan said. He pointed out that there were such short-term businesses here in 2014 when the CNMI's economy was booming and there were businesses from off-island that were here for a short time for their expertise. "And we want to make sure that those businesses that come for just for a short bit of time, before they leave we want to make sure that we collect whatever is due to the Commonwealth," Sablan added.

Speaking in a separate interview, Hofschneider said the Senate sought to amend the bill to give minimum deferred payment grace periods of 30 days and 15 days, respectively, for post-clearance payments for qualified low-risk importers, and also allow the Customs director to promulgate rules 90 days upon legislation becoming law. The Senate also added another language where there is a designation of the Customs director or his/her designee to execute the policy on Rota and Tinian.

"So I appreciate the meeting because we're able to fix the difference and we're ready to move forward to transmit this to the governor's office," Hofschneider said, adding that the legislation just aims to improve efficiency in collection of excise taxes.

Next step, Hofschneider said, is the Senate and House will vote on the conference committee product.

If adopted, he said, the bill will go to the governor for his review and disposition.

The other House conferees were Reps. Joel C. Camacho (R-Saipan) and Luis John DLG Castro (R-Saipan). The other Senate conferees were Sens. Vinnie F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan).

The conference committee was created after the House rejected the Senate amendments to House Bill 21-104 in the form of HS1, SD1.

**THANKFUL TO GIVE!** STELLAR MARIANAS

Miss Marianas Shannon Sasamoto invites the community to donate toys at any of the bins at Triple J Payless & Truckload Store to give to families in need these holiday season. The bin donations have been extended to Dec. 20.

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# Full-ride scholarship to Rice University for MCS senior

Mount Carmel School senior Victoria Santos has earned a full-ride scholarship to attend Rice University next fall 2021. This achievement was made possible through the Quest Bridge college admissions organization.

Mount Carmel School senior Victoria Santos has earned a full-ride scholarship to attend Rice University next fall 2021. MCS

Quest Bridge is a national non-profit organization that selects exceptional high school graduates from low-income communities. Part of its mission is to increase the percentage of low-income students attending the nation's best colleges and to support them to achieve success in their careers and communities.

Rice University is a comprehensive research university dedicated to producing the next generation of leaders, generating bold research solutions, and advancing tomorrow's thinking. Some of Rice University's most notable graduates include Joyce Carol Oats, Shannon Walker, and Peggy Whitson.

"I'm still in shock that I was matched with Rice University," said Santos. "My professional goal is to become a medical doctor and Rice University is a very prestigious research school. My only concern is if the pandemic greatly affects my academic plans, but either way, I'm going to work hard to do well."

MCS counselor Tobed Smith said, "Victoria has worked so hard throughout the last four years and I'm so glad that Quest Bridge and the Rice University selection committee sees the same potential we see in her."

MCS president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said, "Victoria Santos is definitely one of our most promising students. …It was a privilege to write a recommendation letter for her because, despite all the duties and responsibilities she has, she still remains humble, driven, and has an outstanding character."

"I would like to thank Quest Bridge for this opportunity and my parents for their never-ending support," said Santos. "I also need to thank my teachers at Mount Carmel School like Ms. Toby, Mr. Borja, and Dr. G. If it weren't for my dedicated teachers and the available extracurriculars that MCS, I think earning this achievement would've been more difficult to accomplish." ***(PR)***

# MHS issues Q1 report cards

Marianas High School has started distributing its 1st Quarter Report Cards on its campus last Thursday. Today, Dec. 7, the report cards may be picked up from 8am to 3pm.

Report cards will be distributed in the new MHS cafeteria. All visitors will have their temperature checked and must properly wear a face mask.

Parents with access to their MHS Parent PlusPortals account can log in and view their child's grade.

All parents and guardians of students attending MHS are invited to pick up report cards. With the launch of remote (online) learning this school year, it is important for parents and guardians to be updated on their children's academic progress in this new mode of learning.

For questions such as requests for access to the Parent PlusPortals, call the MHS Main Office at (670) 237-3202. ***(PR)***


**Northern Marianas Humanities Council**
*Navigating the Human Experience*

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**

**Chamorro-English, Carolinian-English Translation Services**

Interested parties can access more details for this RFP at www.nmhcouncil.org.

Submission Deadline: December 14, 2020

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**
**RFP21-CHCC/CGC-DRP-001**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 23, 2020 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)**

**"OFFICE LEASE"**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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**/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA**
**CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**/S/ CORA P. ADA**
**DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**
**RFP21-CHCC/FINANCE-001**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 22, 2020 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)**

**"SINGLE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING 2019, 2020 & 2021"**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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**/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA**
**CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**/S/ CORA P. ADA**
**DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY**

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
**Office of the Executive Director**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

**CUC-IFB-21-001**

**ROTA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE- 2 PROJECT REPLACEMENT OF FLOW METER AND PRESSURE RELEASE VALVE (W17-053)**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general removal and installation of gate valve assembly, PRV, flow meter, strainer, pressure gauge and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

***This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.***

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **120 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **December 3, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-21-001, Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project Replacement of Flow Meter and Pressure Release Valve"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 22, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 7, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Edgar Tuazon, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email edgar.tuazon@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Technician Senior via email - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
**Office of the Executive Director**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

**CUC-IFB-21-011**

**ISLEY BOOSTER II TRANSMISSION AND BOOSTER PUMP UPGRADE**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Isley Booster II Transmission and Booster Pump Upgrade in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of upgrading of existing Isley Booster II Pump Station (IB-2); installation of a new transmission line to the existing Dandan tank; rehabilitation of existing IB-2 concrete sump tank, yard piping, aboveground flowmeter and valve station with concrete pad, and all other appurtenances at the IB-2 site; additional boring, design and construction of the new chlorine and electrical building; installation of a new booster pump (triplex system) with no back-up generator at the IB-2 site; construction of a new perimeter security fencing and facility lighting at IB-2 tank; and restoration of existing asphalt concrete road. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

***This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.***

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **December 15, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must** be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-21-011, Isley Booster II Transmission and Booster Pump Upgrade** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 05, 2021**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) of the total bid price shall accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on December 21, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Edgar Tuazon, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email edgar.tuazon@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior via email - marcela.tenorio@cuc-gov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any non-material imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

# Man arrested for burglary and theft

On Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020, at about 6:30am, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a burglary and theft incident at the Naked Fish restaurant in Garapan, Saipan.

At the scene, police met with the owner of the establishment, who told police that he woke up and noticed a notification from the security system that one of the restaurant's doors had been opened at about 1am. Upon reviewing the surveillance footage, an individual, later identified as a former employee of the establishment, Timothy Kapileo, was seen walking into the restaurant and placing bottles of liquor into a trash can. Further inventory of the establishment also reviewed that vacuumed packed fish, and alcohol/liquor with an estimated value of about $1,900 were missing.

Police in the area were notified to be on the lookout for Kapileo. Later that day, Kapileo was found in a pavilion at Pau Pau Beach, along with the described items. The owner of the establishment positively identified that the items belonged to the restaurant.

Kapileo

At about 3:35pm, Kapileo was arrested and advised of his Miranda rights before being transported to Kanoa Resort for COVID-19 clearance, then to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained.

Further investigation revealed that Kapileo was with another male individual in a vehicle outside the restaurant.

On Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020, at about 1:54pm, Kapileo was brought before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho on the charges of burglary and theft, and the judge set his bail at $25,000. ***(PR)***

# Military trainings set

**ASAN, Guam**—The military will conduct training in the vicinity of Jinapsan on Dec. 7-9, from 6am to 11pm. The public is advised to be aware of military personnel training in the area.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Agat Bay and Outer Apra Harbor on the following dates and times:

■ Dec. 7, from 10am to noon.

■ Dec. 8, from 9am to noon.

The public is advised to remain clear of units training in the area.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Outer Apra Harbor on the following dates and times:

■ Dec. 7, from 10am to 3pm

■ Dec. 8-9, from 1-10pm

The public is advised to remain clear of units training in the area.

The U.S. Navy will conduct live fire exercises in open ocean on Dec. 7-10, from 11am to 11:55pm at coordinates 13°26"N/145°08"E,

13°42"N/144°36"E. Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of these events and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Agat Bay and Outer Apra Harbor on Dec. 7-10, from 11am to 11:55pm. Blank ammunition will be used for this training. Mariners and residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Dandan-Malojloj and Radio Barrigada on Dec. 7-10, from 11am to 11:55pm. The use of blank ammunition is authorized for this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Outer Apra Harbor on Dec. 8 and 10, from 10am to 4pm The public is advised to remain clear of military personnel training in the area.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in the vicinity of Outer Apra Harbor Dec. 8 from noon to 2pm. The public is advised to remain clear of military personnel training in the area.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Outer Apra Harbor on Dec. 9, from noon to 5pm The public is advised to be aware of military personnel training in the area.

The military will conduct training in Pati Point on Dec. 10-13, from 6am to 11pm. The public is advised to be aware of military personnel training in the area. ***(PR)***


**COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**
San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**
**2021-CDA-02-RFP**

**Closing Date: Friday, December 18, 2020 • Time: 9:00 a.m.**

**"FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDITS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021 and 2022"**

Copies of the proposal package may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority office, 2nd Floor, CDA Building, Oleai, Saipan, during regular working hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

**THE PROVISIOINI OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTIGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ **MANUEL A. SABLAN**
Executive Director

/S/ **FRANCISCO C. AGUON**
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**
**RFP21-CHCC/PH-NCDB-001**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 23, 2020 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)**

**"NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BUREAU (NCDB) WEBSITE"**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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**/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA**
**CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**/S/ CORA P. ADA**
**DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY**



**Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation**
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**
**RFP21-CHCC/BUSINESS OFFICE-001**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 16, 2020 • TIME:10:00AM (CHST)**

**"CASH TRANSIT SERVICES"**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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**/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA**
**CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**/S/ CORA P. ADA**
**DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & S UPPLY**



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
**Office of the Executive Director**

**REQUEST FOR A&E SERVICES**
**CUC-RAES-21-012**

**Engineering Consulting Services for CUC's Integrated Solar Photovoltaic Energy and Battery Storage Systems**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed RAES Proposals from qualified firms for engineering consultant services for CUC's solar photovoltaic and renewable energy systems in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RAES package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RAES package set.

**One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the AES Proposal** marked *"CUC-RAES-21-012, Engineering Consulting Services for CUC's Integrated Solar Photovoltaic Energy and Battery Storage Systems"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than December 30, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit RAES Proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the RAES Proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RAES requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RAES under the contract. The RAES does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RAES under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAES and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 15, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Anne Crockett, CUC Senior Electrical Engineer via email address anne.crocket@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, Administrative Technician Senior, via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all RAES Proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RAES, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All RAES Proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
**Office of the Executive Director**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**CUC-RFP-21-009**

**Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) for Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for a turn-key design and implementation of two SCADA systems and two additives at Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

*The award of this project is under the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs.*

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package.

**One (1) original and five (5) hard copies** of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-21-009, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System for Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **January 5, 2021.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 22, 2020** to Manny Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, CUC's Power Generation Manager via email richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

# Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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## EDITORIAL

# Defendants convicted by non-unanimous juries should get new trials

In April, the Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution requires that a jury must be unanimous in convicting a defendant of a serious crime. A lot of Americans—including those who have seen the classic film "12 Angry Men," in which a lone holdout convinces other jurors to acquit a defendant—probably thought that was already the rule everywhere. But two states, Louisiana and Oregon, had allowed convictions by a non-unanimous jury, as had the territory of Puerto Rico.

That changed when the court ruled in favor of Evangelisto Ramos, who had been convicted of murdering a woman in Louisiana by a 10-2 vote of a state jury. On Wednesday, a lawyer for another Louisiana man convicted by a non-unanimous jury asked the court to make the Ramos decision retroactive. It must do so if it doesn't want to tarnish its own legacy.

The Ramos decision was a landmark case, displacing a fractured 1972 decision in which the court had seemed to suggest that the Constitution required conviction by a unanimous jury in federal trials but not state trials.

Writing for the court in April, Justice Neil M. Gorsuch explained that as a matter of history the right to a jury trial guaranteed by the 6th Amendment was understood to require a unanimous vote for conviction. That makes sense: It's easier for a jury to ignore the requirement for guilt beyond a reasonable doubt if a majority of the panel can ignore objections by one or two members.

Gorsuch also noted that when Louisiana adopted a provision for non-unanimous juries in 1898, one objective was to make it possible for Black jurors to be outvoted. That history is sadly relevant to the case that was argued Wednesday. Thedrick Edwards, a Black man, was convicted of armed robbery, kidnapping and rape by a jury that contained only one Black juror—who voted for acquittal on all of the charges.

You would think that Edwards would be automatically entitled to a new trial after the court's decision in April. But under the court's precedents, decisions establishing new rules—even those rooted in the Constitution—aren't generally retroactive in cases like this one.

However, the court has said that decisions involving new procedural rules can be applied retroactively if they involve "the fundamental fairness and accuracy of the criminal proceeding." Andre R. Belanger, the lawyer for Edwards, told the justices that they could decide that the Ramos decision involved just such a "watershed rule."

Alternatively, Belanger said, the court could decide that the Ramos decision didn't announce a new rule but restored the "full measure" of the 6th Amendment. Either way, he said, the Ramos decision should apply retroactively.

Belanger also made the case for his client in simpler terms. He asked: "Why should the 6th Amendment mean something less to Mr. Edwards" than to other defendants?

*See DEFENDANTS on Next Page*

HE SAID THERE'S NO EVIDENCE OF VOTER FRAUD. SO WHAT IS HE DOING NOW?
CHECKING TWITTER TO SEE IF HE HAS BEEN FIRED.
BARR
LAS VEGAS SUN 2020
MIKE SMITH
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS

# Why America is still living with the damage done by the 'superpredator' lie

**By KIM TAYLOR-THOMPSON**
Los Angeles Times

*Kim Taylor-Thompson is a professor of law at NYU School of Law and chair of the board of the Equal Justice Initiative.*

Twenty-five years ago, John DiIulio, a political science professor, created and disseminated one of the most dangerous and lethal lies in our history. He coined the term "superpredator," depicting Black children as remorseless animals who would prey on victims.

Make no mistake, racism propelled the spread of this theory. DiIulio insisted that this younger, more dangerous breed of offender would soon target "upscale central-city districts, inner-ring suburbs, and even the rural heartland." His warning was clear: White America was in danger. The response was swift and unrelenting. The media immediately exploited and sensationalized his claims.

Politicians from both parties joined to pass draconian crime bills. And the public eagerly consumed the story. The superpredator lie went viral, infecting every single institution that touches children—courts, schools, law enforcement. In the end, it robbed Black children of their youth and the protections of childhood.

But the superpredator prediction was fiction. The crime wave DiIulio predicted never materialized. Juvenile crime rates actually dropped between 1994 and 2000. Of course, that did not slow politicians who nimbly ignored that data and pushed "adult time for adult crime" legislation.

Even when DiIulio admitted being wrong about his predictions, his retraction could not dislodge this country's already-formed assumptions that young Black males were coldblooded and dangerous. Today, virtually every state still permits middle schoolers to be prosecuted as adults, exposing them to adult punishment. The overwhelming majority of those kids are Black.

What made this superpredator story so easy to swallow—and so stubbornly intractable?

The answer is simple and damning. The superpredator myth glommed onto a deeper lie rooted in American soil and in the American psyche. A lie that insists that Black children do not deserve the care we reflexively offer white children. All that was needed was the barest of information, and our worst beliefs filled out the contours of the story.

Sadly, this lie is an American phenomenon with intergenerational effects. During slavery, white slavers separated children from their mothers because a child could garner a greater profit. This was not just profiteering. This was insisting that Black children were chattel, not human. During the Jim Crow era, white mobs lynched Black children if they dared to cross a racial boundary that white society invented and ruthlessly enforced. Again, the lesson: Black children weren't like other children. They needed to "know their place" in the racial caste. The nation was primed to expect the disparate treatment of Black children as appropriate or deserved.

By the time the claim that Black children were predators came along, the false stories were so culturally embedded that the public accepted this newest lie without question. Dehumanizing Black children allowed Americans to withstand any tug of moral constraint as children as young as 9 were charged as adults in the criminal justice system.

Linking Black children to animal traits made them seem less human. Nazi Germany had depicted Jews as "vermin" or "rodents" to relieve the public of all feelings of sympathy or empathy. In the same way, dehumanizing language put Black children outside the boundaries of childhood and allowed this country to remain unbothered by the fact that judges were sentencing children to die in prison under sentences of life without parole.

Choosing who counts as a child is steeped in this country's racism. When Kyle Rittenhouse, a white 17-year-old, opened fire on a street in Kenosha, Wisconsin, killing two protesters this summer, pundits and political operatives were quick to describe him as a "little boy out there trying to protect his community." Even when he walked past police toting a semiautomatic rifle, police did not stop or question him. A Black 17-year-old armed with a semiautomatic would not have lived to tell the story.

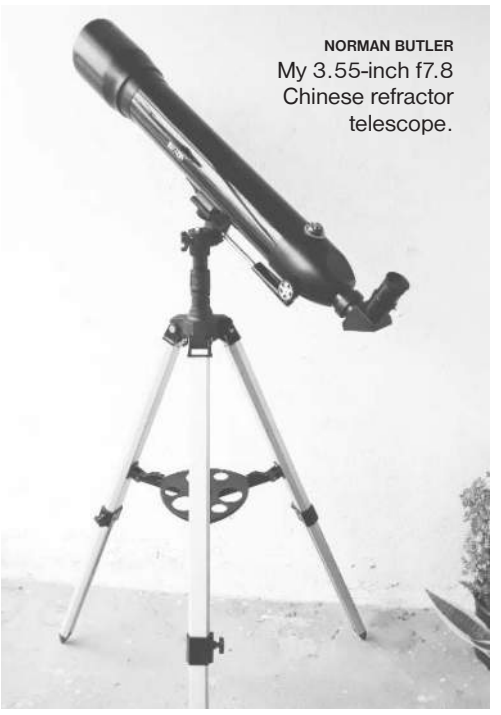
But Rittenhouse was not perceived as dangerous. He was seen as a child. Contrast that with Tamir Rice. Cleveland Police Dfficer Timothy Loehmann sized up Tamir, a 12-year-old boy playing with a toy gun, in a split second. He saw the boy as dangerous and shot and killed him within two seconds of getting out of his patrol car. The inability to see Tamir as a child cost him his life.

It has been a generation since the superpredator myth entered public discourse and we are still living with its pernicious effects. The justice system needs to stop referring children into the adult criminal justice system so that Black children get the benefit of the doubt instinctively given to white children.

More broadly, any racial reckoning needs to confront and check the reflex that leads us to see Black children as expendable. Maybe then we can begin to undo the untold damage of the superpredator lie.

# Saipan stargazing

If you're lucky enough to live on Saipan and you have a small telescope or a pair of binoculars to enjoy the beautiful night skies that Saipan has to offer, then every clear night will provide you and your family with an opportunity to enjoy viewing the heavens and it's stellar delights from your own yard or apartment deck.



NORMAN BUTLER
My 3.55-inch f7.8 Chinese refractor telescope.

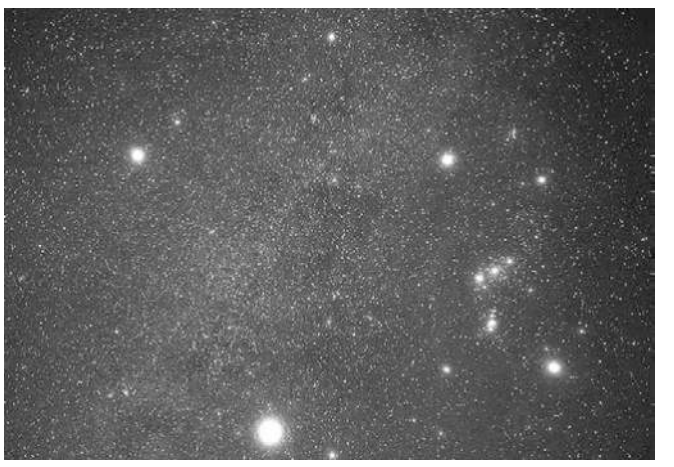
It doesn't take a very large telescope to enjoy viewing the night skies here on Saipan. A telescope with an 80mm or 90mm aperture (objective lens size) will do nicely, especially when viewing the moon and planets. Using a variety of eyepieces for example (10mm, 20mm and 30mm) can vary your telescope's magnification and make your observing experience an even more enjoyable one by seeing even more details of the planets such as the bright planets Venus and its crescent phases, Jupiter and its moons, and Saturn, its rings or the moon's cratered lunar surface and mountain ranges. Some of the winter skies highlights that you can enjoy viewing is the Winter Triangle in the constellations of Canis Major, Canis Minor, and Orion. In the constellation of Orion (in the middle of Orion's sword) you can view the spectacular Orion Nebula (M-42) through your telescope or even using binoculars (example: 7x50mm) will also provide a splendid view of the spectacular great nebula in the constellation of Orion (Orion the Hunter). See the accompanying public domain Wikipedia image of the Winter Triangle. Some of the fun of stargazing under Saipan's beautiful clear winter skies is viewing the Winter Triangle's brightest primary stars such as Sirius, Betelgeuse, and Procyon, which are easy to spot and fun to observe. The kids can even draw their location in the Winter Triangle as an astronomy science lesson in their school notebook to show to their teacher and classmates. I'll talk about some more stargazing activities in a future article. Stargazing is an enjoyable educational and entertaining experience for your whole family that you can enjoy under the beautiful clear Saipan night skies.

Other images shows my 90mm 3.55-inch f/7.8 Mystery refractor telescope that I use to observe the heavens with on Saipan. If you're going to do some casual or even some serious stargazing, then I would recommend taking a short drive over to Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods in Susupe on Beach Road to check out some of their splendid line of telescopes and binoculars. They're the experts on telescopes and binoculars and they can answer your questions about the kind and size of telescope or binoculars you need to start your stargazing activities with on Saipan.

**COMET HUNTER**

**By NORMAN BUTLER, PH.D.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Norman Butler Ph.D. is a retired astronomer and has been a Saipan resident since 2011. Butler, who holds advanced degrees in Physics and Astronomy, was an opticalman (submarine optical navigational equipment) in the U.S. Navy throughout the 1960s and worked at Haleakala's AMOS Observatory on Maui in astronomy and optical engineering starting in the 1980s. He is an award-winning amateur telescope maker (https://tinyurl.com/y4eerxot) and has authored five popular books on binoscopes.*



The Winter Triangle. WIKIPEDIA

# Tragic Trumpty Tweeter Tales

**LITERARY NOOK**

**By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.*

Most of the following sonnet is a direct quote from a much longer article which first appeared in bulwark.com. The author, Matt Kaufman, is a writer for Focus on the Family, a global Christian ministry dedicated to helping families thrive. The quote is verbatim with the exception of a few pronouns and articles such as 'you' and 'the' deleted to fit the quotation into a 14-line sonnet form. The two-line introduction is by me.

### A Christian's Perspective

*(excerpts from writing by Matt Kaufman)*

Adios Bigly Child Donald. Millions of U.S. voters,
and people of all religions will not miss your constant:
"lying and gaslighting, pathological narcissism,
cruelty, pettiness, bullying, and Twitter tantrums,
schoolyard name-calling, corruption and abuse
of public power for private interests, assaults on
institutions and standards across government and
culture, admiration and emulation of dictators,
derogation of public servants, statesmen and heroes,
the elevation of cranks, crooks and clowns. Bizarre
rants and conspiracy mongering. Shameless appeals
to the ugliest instincts, your blatant racism.
The staggering ineptitude. The sheer stupidity."

### Donald's Departing Tweets and DDT

*(DDT was originally developed as an insecticide but became famous for its environmental impacts. It was banned for agricultural use in the U.S. in 1972.)*

He tweeted poison—this Donald
around him was himself
no blue sky, no stars
a void, no books
Donald tweeted to his own echo
in his loneliness he was king
king of his own world
poisoning roots of democracy
destructive tweets were his thing
a self proclaimed King of Debt
a bigly king of bling
a shell game, shallow and lame
a bigly disgrace this Donald
a sham, a shame.

## DEFENDANTS

*From Page 8*

Some justices wondered about the number of new trials that might be necessary if Ramos were applied retroactively. (Edwards' lawyer said that the maximum number in Louisiana would be 1,600 and that the criminal justice system could handle the burden.) But justice shouldn't be a numbers game.

As Justice Elena Kagan noted, the court in the Ramos case concluded that "if you haven't been convicted by a unanimous jury, you really haven't been convicted at all." But defendants such as Edwards stand convicted despite that decision. That is fundamentally unfair.

© 2020 *Los Angeles Times*

# The problem with probation and parole

**By ALLISON FRANKEL**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

During the November election, voters across the country approved a slew of initiatives to reform police departments, curb the failed war on drugs and reduce incarceration. But millions of people are still being brutalized by a subtler, yet no less abusive, form of law enforcement: probation and parole.

Promoted as alternatives to incarceration, probation and parole have become systems of oppression and control, primarily over Black and brown people. To fully reckon with racial injustice and police abuses, we must reform these discriminatory systems of supervision.

Take Willie White, a middle-age Black father I met in December 2019 at a jail in Lowndes County, Georgia.

Like one in every 18 adults in Georgia, White is on supervision—in his case, probation for 10 years due to a 2015 marijuana conviction. In October 2019, White had been riding his bicycle through town when police approached him. He was arrested for possessing drugs, and ended up spending months in jail just waiting for a hearing to challenge allegations of violating his probation.

Nearly 4.4 million people in the United States are on probation or parole, often for years. While under supervision, they must abide by numerous vague, difficult to follow, and oppressive conditions—including paying fines and fees many cannot afford; attending frequent meetings, often far away or during work hours; reporting every address change, even if they lack housing stability; and staying away from people with felony records.

This system is oppressive for everyone, but it disproportionately impacts Black people. Across the nation in 2016, one out of 23 Black people was on probation or parole, compared to one in 81 whites.

I spoke with a Black mother in a Pennsylvania jail just days before her third child was due. She had spent years in jail or on probation for charges she said stemmed from a longstanding substance use disorder. "I asked for programs," she said, but her probation officer "didn't want to hear that I need help; they just gave me time."

Probation and parole were designed in the late 19th century to keep people out of jail and prison and help them to get needed services. But the "tough on crime" movement that began in the 1970s turned probation and parole into a means of racial control. Conditions toughened, sentences lengthened, monitoring increased, and sanctions for violations were heightened. Now these systems are fueling mass incarceration.

In 2017, nearly half the number of people entering state prisons in the United States were sent there for violating probation or parole. In states where Human Rights Watch conducted in-depth research—Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Georgia—people are often locked up for minor rule violations, like failing to report an address change, or low-level crimes, like drug possession or disorderly conduct.

Regardless of the allegations, people whose probation or parole are being revoked are often being sent to jails that are overcrowded, unsanitary and now at risk for outbreaks of COVID-19. Black people bear the brunt of this enforcement: multiple studies show that supervision is more likely to result in re-incarceration for Black people than white people.

To be sure, probation and parole do keep some people out of jail and prison. But in far too many cases, they lead people right back to a cell, while in large part failing to connect them with the services and resources they need.

The movement to divest from police and invest in communities is important. But to protect Black lives, we must also divest from probation and parole, and invest those savings into increasing access to jobs, housing, education and health services.

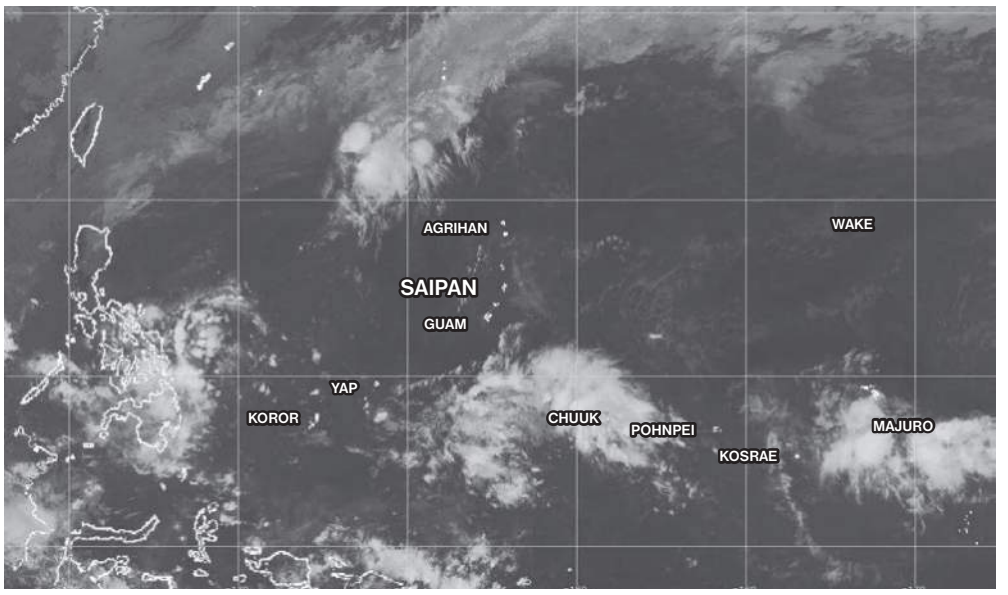
*Allison Frankel is the Aryeh Neier fellow with Human Rights Watch and the American Civil Liberties Union and is the author of a new report on probation and parole issues.*

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph. |
| 87° 77° | 87° 77° | 87° 77° | 87° 77° | 87° 77° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 7:38 AM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam radar shows a line of showers approaching the Marianas, with isolated showers behind it. Satellite indicates a more substantial area of showers to the east beyond radar range. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 7 feet, composed mainly of east-northeast trade-wind swell with some wind waves mixed in.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/*

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

| MICRONESIA | ▲ ▼ °F | |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 85° / 78° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 84° / 78° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 85° / 79° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 86° / 81° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 85° / 78° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 85° / 78° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 84° / 80° |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:30 AM | 5:46 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:31 AM | 5:46 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:31 AM | 5:46 PM |
| Thursday | 6:32 AM | 5:47 PM |
| Friday | 6:32 AM | 5:47 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | - | 11:57 AM | 11:51 PM |
| Tuesday | - | 12:40 PM | - |
| Wednesday | 12:47 AM | 1:22 PM | - |
| Thursday | 1:43 AM | 2:05 PM | - |
| Friday | 2:40 AM | 2:49 PM | - |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | ▲ ▼ °F | |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Partly Cloudy | 75° / 61° |
| Beijing | Mostly Cloudy | 30° / 18° |
| Hong Kong | Cloudy | 66° / 64° |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 78° / 70° |
| London | Showers | 46° / 37° |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 82° / 51° |
| Manila | Partly Cloudy | 86° / 73° |
| Melbourne | Mostly Sunny | 82° / 59° |
| Miami | Sunny | 66° / 55° |
| New York | Windy | 31° / 24° |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | 46° / 36° |
| Paris | Showers | 43° / 34° |
| Busan | Mostly Sunny | 45° / 34° |
| Rome | Partly Cloudy | 57° / 45° |
| Salem | Sunny | 50° / 34° |
| San Francisco | Sunny | 60° / 45° |
| Seoul | Mostly Sunny | 32° / 18° |
| Tokyo | Sunny | 48° / 34° |
| Washington, DC | Windy | 33° / 25° |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | FEET |
|---|---|---|
| 6:10 AM | LOW TIDE | -0.20 |
| 1:48 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.73 |
| 7:56 PM | LOW TIDE | 1.03 |
| 11:50 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.30 |

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117 | 6:55am | 7:35am | 1, 4, 6 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117/183 | 6:55am | 9:50pm | 1 via Guam |

**GUAM-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA183 | 8:00pm | 9:50pm | 1, 3, 5 |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 5:10am | 5:51am | 1, 4, 6 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184/174 | 10:40pm | 5:51am+1 | 3, 5 via Guam |

**MANILA (MNL)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184 | 10:40pm | 4:30am+1 | 1, 3, 5 |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | 8:30AM | 9:00AM | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri |
| 1302 | 11:00AM | 11:30AM | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri |
| 1303 | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | Mon/Wed/Fri |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | 9:30AM | 10:00AM | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri |
| 3102 | 12:00AM | 12:30AM | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri |
| 3103 | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | Mon/Wed/Fri |

**ROTA TO GUAM**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 12:15 | 12:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |

**GUAM TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Temporarily Unavailable |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1201 | 7:00 | 7:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1205 | 11:00 | 11:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1206 | 12:00 | 12:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1207 | 13:00 | 13:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1212 | 18:00 | 18:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2101 | 7:30 | 7:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2105 | 11:30 | 11:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2106 | 12:30 | 12:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2107 | 13:30 | 13:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2112 | 18:30 | 18:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |

# Fork and Spoon is an NMC ProaPerks Partner

Fork and Spoon is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that give exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can get now unlimited refill of iced tea and complimentary miso soup at Fork and Spoon.

The restaurant joins the growing list of ProaPerks partners, such as 153 restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, All Star Sporting Goods, Athlete's Foot, Boarderline, Bubba Gump, Caravan of Food, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days (Garapan), Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Garapan Restaurant, Great Harvest, Kiki's, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, NMC Bookstore, Latte Built, Saipan Computer Services, Salty's, Surf Club, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Tribe Marianas, Triple J Motors, The Pacific Supply, and Pena House Boutique.

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Fork and Spoon at the Star Sands Plaza is now an NMC ProaPerks partner.
NMC

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**
JC Marketing Inc. (Saipan)

a Distribution Company,
is looking for
**FIELD SALES REPRESENTATIVE**
Candidates must be:
Highschool Graduate
Have at least 2 years
of Field Sales experience

Interested individuals
can submit resume via
email to
jcme@jcmarketinginc.com
or fax to 235-6336

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

DONALD BUFTON, Plaintiff, -v- SAMUEL RAYBURN, Defendant. ) CIVIL ACTION NO. 04-0043

**TENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on October 12, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:
Lot no. 012 B 08, situated in Calabera, Saipan Northern Mariana Islands, containing 39, 297 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 012 B 01, which was registered with the Land Registry as Document no. 1466 on the 15th of March, 1972.

Total area of the property: 39, 297 square meters

Known encumbrances:
The interest to be sold is a fully-prepaid leasehold interest which expires on May 31, 2042. There are no other known valid encumbrances materially affecting title.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale.
The Sale will be held on Friday, December 18, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.
The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 17th day of November, 2020:

/s/
Michael A. White, Auctioneer

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JOAQUIN SANTOS BLAS, Deceased. ) Civil Case No. 19-0102

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON SECOND AMENDED PETITION FOR DECREE OF FINAL DISTRIBUTION**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Second Amended Petition for Decree of Final Distribution in the above-entitled matter will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 17th day of December, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 3rd day of December, 2020.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JUAN SANTOS BLAS, Deceased. ) Civil Case No. 19-0236C

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DECREE OF FINAL DISTRIBUTION**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Petition for Decree of Final Distribution in the above-entitled matter will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 17th day of December, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 3rd day of December, 2020.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: PEDRO SANTOS BLAS, Deceased. ) Civil Case No. 19-0237C

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DECREE OF FINAL DISTRIBUTION**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Petition for Decree of Final Distribution in the above-entitled matter will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 17th day of December, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 3rd day of December, 2020.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Petitioner

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In the Matter of the Estate of ESTELA EVANGELISTA REYES, Deceased. ) CIVIL ACTION NO. 20-0374

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that Maria Evangelista Reyes has filed a Petition for Letter of Administration upon the Estate of Estela Evangelista Reyes, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on Thursday, January 14, 2021, at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

NOTICE is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Estella Evangelista Reyes, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

Dated: December 2, 2020

/s/ JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge

# NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

**for**

**Marianas Hemp Farms**

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Marianas Hemp Farms proposes to renovate and occupy the 2nd floor of a preexisting 3-storey structure for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. EA 464-B-1 in the village of Puerto Rico. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial district.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date: December 9, 2020**
**Time: 5:00 pm**
**Place: Commonwealth Zoning Office | 2nd Floor**
**Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 8th, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

*/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman*

# NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

**for**

**Saipan Select, LLC**

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Select, LLC is proposing to renovate & occupy a preexisting a two-storey warehouse structure for its Cannabis Retail Use. This use is classified as "Cannabis Retail" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. EA 464-B-1 in Tanapag village. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date: December 9, 2020**
**Time: 5:00 pm**
**Place: Commonwealth Zoning Office | 2nd Floor**
**Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 8th, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

*/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman*

## Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 | 5:00 PM
Commonwealth Zoning Office | 2nd Floor Joeten Dandan Building
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.zoning.gov.mp

**SPECIAL MEETING**
**AGENDA**

**A. Preliminary Matters**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

**B. Public Hearings:**

**1. Conditional Use Application #2020-3925** – Saipan Select, LLC proposes to renovate and occupy a preexisting 2-storey structure for its Cannabis Retail use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Retail" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 108-E8 in the village of Tanapag. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial district.

**2. Conditional Use Application #2020-3386** – Marianas Hemp Farms proposes to renovate and occupy the 2nd floor of a preexisting 3-storey structure for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. EA 464-B-1 in the village of Puerto Rico. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial district.

**3. Adjournment**

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

**Zoom Video Communications**
Meeting Link:
https://zoom.us/j/6853007492?pwd=Q0daYlNPMDdXdFlQRTQ4UkhFRjViUT09
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492
Password: Dec09

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 057 E 18, Lot 057 E 15 and Lot 057 E 29, containing a total area of approximately 6,603 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. Copies of the location of the parcels are available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is A & M Corporation. The list of officers for A & M Corporation are Mrs. Maria S. Palacios, as President, and Mr. Arnold I. Palacios, as Secretary/ Treasurer.

iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officers and directors of A & M Corporation, mainly Mrs. Maria S. Palacios.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of a operating a Warehouse, Maintenance, Repair Shop, Carpentry Shop, Management Office and other related activities.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of each lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of PM Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before December 11, 2020 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

## NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Pupliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku ha nå'inutisia guini put I intension ñani para u nama'atkila palu na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas Siha. I manintiresão na petsona siha gi halum pupbliku henerått siña muna'na'halum upiñon, imfotmasion, pat testimoñiun kinentra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para I atkilon tanu' pupbliku. Kumu más mo'na mapribeniyini Lai Pupbliku 15-2, I sigienti na pettanesi na imfotmasion ni madimånda ni para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi komu Lot 057 E 18, Lot 057 E 15 yan Lot 057 E 29, ni ha kunsisisti i åriagikå si guaha 6,603 square meters, más pat menus, ni gaigi gi Lower Base, iya Saipan. I kopian i pumalu managuaha gi Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan gi website www.dpl.gov.mp para rinikono simientu.

ii. The prospective lessee i A & M Corporation. I listan ufisiåt siha para i A & M Corporation si Siñora Maria S. Palacios, komu Presidenti, yan si Siñot Arnold I. Palacios, komu Sekritåriu/Tresureru.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon"compliant" yan i regulasion DPL yan manigosiu ni ufisiåt yan direktot nu i A & M Corporation, mayot menti si Siñora Maria S. Palacios.

iv. I lessee debina u usa i lugåt para atyu ha' na rason "operating" i "Warehouse, Maintenance, Repair Shop, Carpentry Shop, Management Office" yan ottru manasosiåt na rason.

I tema nu i maproponi na kuntrå tanat kilon sabenti singku (25) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilon gikada' såkkan gi duråntin i temani kontrå tanat kilon mapegagi pusientus nu ibålin"appraised fair market" i propiedåt yan i aplikåblina pusientusnu Risibun Hina'halum Bisnis gi halum regulasion i DPL.

v. I kopian i maproponina kuntrå tanak kilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi Sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan I JoetenDandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, giprimet (1st) na bibiendani De'Ana Commercial Building, iyaSongsongnasengsong, Luta; pat giprimet (1st) nabibiendan I PM Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia mana guaha lokkui' gi online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para u ma' atkila I masuhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritårian Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debina u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinentra pat tinahguin priniponi ginin I manintirisão na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Disembre 11, 2020 giufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian.

## ARONGORONGOL TOULAP REEL POMMWOL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay akkááw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóókka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebw eakkatééwow.

i. Pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap e bwáálóbwe Lot 057 E 18, Lot 057 E 15 me Lot 057 E 29, e lo bwe 6,603 reel square meters, elapeló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Lower Base, Seipél. Pappidil Falúw yeel eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwalwóól website me www.dpl.gov.mp ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.

ii. Pommwol schóól atkkilóón nge A & M Corporation. List-al officers ngáli A & M Corporation nge Mrs. Maria S. Palacios, bwe President, me Mr. Arnold I. Palacios, bwe Sekkretóóriyo/ Treasurer.

iii. Pommwol atkkilóón nge e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi officers me directors-il A & M Corporation, spesiatmente Mrs. Maria S. Palacios.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw ngáli mwóghutughutúl "Warehouse", "Maintenance", "Repair Shop", "Carpentry Shop", "Management Office" me akkááw mwóghutughutikka e bwal schuulong.

Pommwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.

Pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráágh ngáligh aleew abwungu bwungúlat kkilóónnge e lo reel percentage-il "appraised fair market value" reel falúwfengál me "applicable percentage" reel "Business Gross Receipts" llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, Apilómwol Songsong, Luuta' ngáre 1st floor reel PM Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwalyoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye e siiweli falúw iye re apasa me Lower Base, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmweli lbweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angii ngáre pommwiye re siiweli sángi schóókka re mwuschel wóól ngáremmwalil Disembre 11, 2020 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.

# Business

# A bleak outlook for millions

**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)— Tina Morton recently faced a choice: Pay bills — or buy a birthday gift for a child? Derrisa Green is falling further behind on rent. Sylvia Soliz has had her electricity cut off.

Unemployment has forced aching decisions on millions of Americans and their families in the face of a rampaging viral pandemic that has closed shops and restaurants, paralyzed travel and left millions jobless for months. Now, their predicaments stand to grow bleaker yet if Congress fails to extend two unemployment programs that are set to expire the day after Christmas.

If no agreement is reached in negotiations taking place on Capitol Hill, more than 9 million people will lose federal jobless aid that averages about $320 a week and that typically serves as their only source of income.

Green, 39, and her husband are among them. An end to their unemployment benefits would force them to keep missing rent payments on their home in Dyer, Indiana, near Chicago. The couple have eight children. Green's husband is a self-employed truck driver whose business disappeared when the pandemic erupted in the spring. Only in October did he start to pick up occasional work.

He now receives about $235 a week in unemployment aid. Even so, "all of our bills are late," Green said. They've received several shutoff notices from utilities before managing to pay just before service was to be cut off.

"That's really scary," Green said, "because what are we going to do when we lose the unemployment money?"

The end of jobless aid is approaching at an especially perilous time. Job growth slowed sharply in November, and the resurgence of viral cases appears to be out of control across the country.

Even with the prospect of an effective vaccine being widely distributed in coming months, economists say the picture will worsen before it improves. Many foresee a net loss of jobs in December for the first time since April.

On Friday, President-elect Joe Biden called on Congress to quickly approve a bipartisan $908 billion package that would establish a $300-a-week jobless benefit as well as send aid to states and localities, help schools and universities, revive subsidies for businesses and support transit systems and airlines. Details are still being worked out, but the outlines of a final bill could emerge soon.

More than 20 million people are now receiving unemployment benefits. More than half are beneficiaries of two programs that were part of rescue aid legislation Congress enacted in March. One program made self-employed and contract workers eligible for jobless aid for the first time and provided 39 weeks of support. The other program supplied 13 weeks of extended benefits to the 26 weeks that most states provide.

About 9.1 million who are receiving aid from those programs will be cut off Dec. 26, according to a report from the Century Foundation. An additional 4.4 million are expected to exhaust all 39 weeks by year's end. If Congress agrees to provide more weeks of aid and to revive both programs, those beneficiaries could keep receiving aid next year.

AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
AMERICA'S SBDC PALAU

Get Your Business Online with Google

FREE OF CHARGE
DATE: December 10, 2020
TIME: 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Learn about Google My Business, a free tool for local businesses who want to connect with customers on Google Search and Maps. Get hands-on help creating and updating your business profile or a simple website. Participants will learn how customers find your business online and how to promote your business using Search Engine Optimization (SEO) and Smart Campaigns in Googles Ads.

Ltelatk H. Fritz, M.A.
Palau SBDC
Business Advisor &
Center Director

TO REGISTER:
HTTPS://PISBDCN.ECENTER
DIRECT.COM/EVENTS/4691

This training will be conducted via Zoom. Upon registration you will be given the Zoom Meeting ID and Password to be able to join the webinar training. Please note that you will need a laptop or iPad to join.

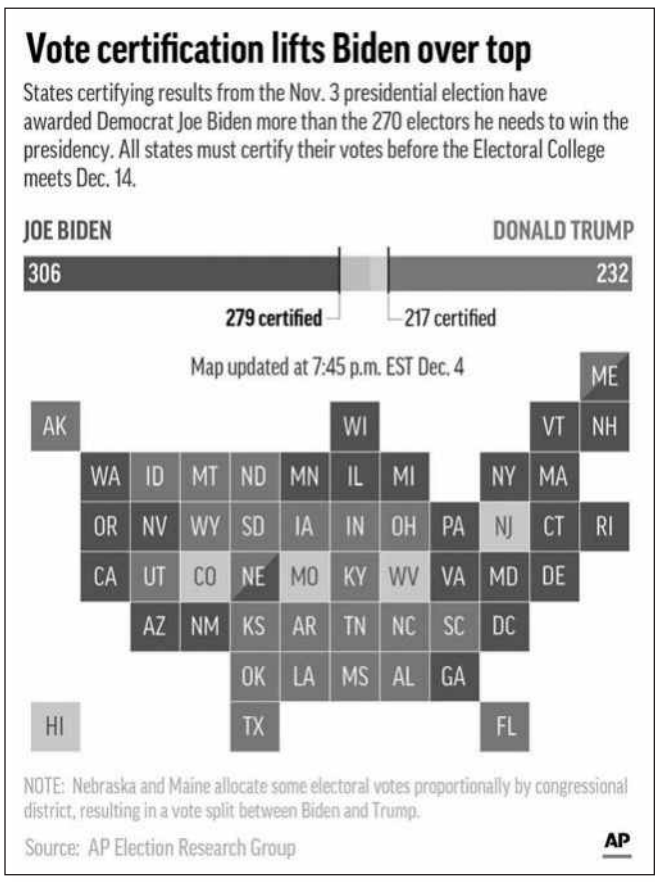
For more information, visit our website at www.pacificsbdc.com or call CNMI SBDC Office at 664-3018.

Disclaimer: The CNMI Small Business Development Center (CNMI SBDC)is a member of the University of Guam Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center (PISBDCN). PISBDCN is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author (s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact CNMI SBDC Nicole Babauta, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB Saipan, MP 96950, Tel: (670)664-3018, or Email cnmisbdc@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

# Nation

## Biden officially gets enough electors to secure presidency

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD and NICHOLAS RICCARDI
ASSOCIATED PRESS


Vote certification lifts Biden over top
States certifying results from the Nov. 3 presidential election have awarded Democrat Joe Biden more than the 270 electors he needs to win the presidency. All states must certify their votes before the Electoral College meets Dec. 14.
JOE BIDEN
DONALD TRUMP
306
232
279 certified
217 certified
Map updated at 7:45 p.m. EST Dec. 4
AK
WI
VT
NH
ME
WA ID MT ND MN IL MI NY MA
OR NV WY SD IA IN OH PA NJ CT RI
CA UT CO NE MO KY WV VA MD DE
AZ NM KS AR TN NC SC DC
OK LA MS AL GA
HI
TX
FL
NOTE: Nebraska and Maine allocate some electoral votes proportionally by congressional district, resulting in a vote split between Biden and Trump.
Source: AP Election Research Group
AP

California certified its presidential election Friday and appointed 55 electors pledged to vote for Democrat Joe Biden, officially handing him the Electoral College majority needed to win the White House.

Secretary of State Alex Padilla's formal approval of Biden's win in the state brought his tally of pledged electors so far to 279, according to a tally by The Associated Press. That's just over the 270 threshold for victory.

These steps in the election are often ignored formalities. But the hidden mechanics of electing a U.S. president have drawn new scrutiny this year as President Donald Trump continues to deny Biden's victory and pursues increasingly specious legal strategies aimed at overturning the results before they are finalized.

Although it's been apparent for weeks that Biden won the presidential election, his accrual of more than 270 electors is the first step toward the White House, said Edward B. Foley, a law professor at Ohio State University.

"It is a legal milestone and the first milestone that has that status," Foley said. "Everything prior to that was premised on what we call projections."

The electors named Friday will meet Dec. 14, along with counterparts in each state, to formally vote for the next president. Most states have laws binding their electors to the winner of the popular vote in their state, measures that were upheld by a Supreme Court decision this year. There have been no suggestions that any of Biden's pledged electors would contemplate not voting for him.

Results of the Electoral College vote are due to be received, and typically approved, by Congress on Jan. 6. Although lawmakers can object to accepting the electors' votes, it would be almost impossible for Biden to be blocked at that point.

The Democratic-controlled House and Republican-controlled Senate would both vote separately to resolve any disputes. One already has arisen from Pennsylvania, where 75 Republican lawmakers signed a statement on Friday urging Congress to block the state's electoral votes from being cast for Biden. But the state's Republican U.S. senator, Pat Toomey, said soon afterward that he would not be objecting to Pennsylvania's slate of electors, underscoring the difficulty in trying to change the election results through Congress.

"As a practical matter, we know that Joe Biden is going to be inaugurated on Jan. 20," Foley said.

## Trump assails vote integrity while urging turnout in Ga.

**VALDOSTA, Georgia** (AP)—President Donald Trump pressed his grievances over losing the presidential election Saturday, using a rally to spread baseless allegations of misconduct in last month's voting in Georgia and beyond even as he pushed supporters to turn out for a pair of Republican Senate candidates in a runoff election in January.

"Let them steal Georgia again, you'll never be able to look yourself in the mirror," Trump told rallygoers.

Trump's 100-minute rally before thousands of largely maskless supporters came not long after he was rebuffed by Georgia's Republican governor in his astounding call for a special legislative session to give him the state's electoral votes, even though President-elect Joe Biden won the majority of the vote.

The Jan. 5 Senate runoffs in Georgia will determine the balance of power in Washington after Biden takes office. Republicans in the state are worried that Trump is stoking so much suspicion about Georgia elections that voters will think the system is rigged and decide to sit out the two races.

The latest futile attempt to subvert the presidential election results continued Trump's unprecedented campaign to undermine confidence in the democratic process, but overshadowed his stated purpose in traveling to Georgia — boosting Sens. David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler.

Republicans need one victory to maintain their Senate majority. Democrats need a Georgia sweep to force a 50-50 Senate and position Vice President-elect Kamala Harris as the tiebreaking vote. Party officials had hoped the president would dedicate his energy to imploring supporters to vote in the runoff, when Perdue and Loeffler try to hold off Democrats Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock, respectively.

Trump did echo Republican rhetoric that the races amounted to "the most important congressional runoff, probably in American history." That is only true because he lost.

But after Air Force One landed, it quickly became apparent that Trump was intent on airing his own complaints and stoking baseless doubts about the conduct of last month's vote, rather than boosting his party.

# World

## Iran's virus deaths pass 50K as lockdown on capital eases

**TEHRAN, Iran** (AP)—Iran's death toll from the global pandemic has risen above 50,000, state television said Saturday, as the country grapples with the worst outbreak in the Middle East.

A two-week partial lockdown in the capital of Tehran and other major cities helped slow, but not stop the rising wave of deaths from the coronavirus over the past few weeks.

President Hassan Rouhani warned Saturday that the lockdown could be extended to more cities or reimposed on the capital, if people do not abide by health measures.

"Tehran is on the borderline of being in the red zone," Rouhani said. "All people and public officials should try to implement measures and regulations."

Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said Saturday that the countrywide death toll the previous day was 321.

Before the most recent lockdown, the daily death toll was as high as 486.

Lari said that healthcare officials had found over 12,150 new cases that brought the total of confirmed cases to above 1,028,980. This represents a significant decrease in the daily number of confirmed cases since the lockdown.

Rouhani also vowed to raise the number of countrywide COVID-19 tests to over 100,000 per day. Iran has almost doubled its daily testing capacity to 40,000 in the past weeks.

While shopping malls and mosques reopened Saturday in Tehran, a 9 p.m. curfew on businesses and the use of private cars will remain in force in the capital and major cities.

Larger lockdown measures remained in force in 64 other towns across the country.

The use of private cars is banned in those towns from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m., while travel between the lockdown cities by private car has also been stopped.

In November, authorities ordered a month-long nightly business curfew in Tehran and 30 other major cities and towns, asking nonessential shops to keep their workers home, while factories and major industries like oil and gas remained open.

Ali Reza Zali, the official who is coordinating anti-coronavirus measures in the capital, said that he expected the lockdown, though ended, will lead to a continued drop in virus deaths over the next weeks.

A spokesman for the Health Ministry, Kianoush Jahanpour, said Iran is working on three vaccines for the disease, including one that is based on inactivated virus samples, while the other two are based on the same method used for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. He said the vaccines will reach the human test phase soon, without elaborating further.

Iran's government also said last week that it planned to buy more than 20 million doses of coronavirus vaccines from abroad.

## Crunch UK-EU talks on post-Brexit ties to resume Sunday

**LONDON** (AP)—The European Union and the United Kingdom decided Saturday to press on with negotiating a post-Brexit trade deal, with all three key issues still unresolved ahead of a year-end cutoff.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said after a phone call that their negotiators will return to the table Sunday even though fundamental differences between the two sides remain over the rules for fair competition, legal oversight of the deal and fishing rights for EU trawlers in U.K. waters.

"Significant differences remain," the two leaders said in a joint statement after their tea-time call to assess the state of play over the future EU-U.K. relationship.

While the U.K. left the EU on Jan. 31, it remains within the bloc's tariff-free single market and customs union through Dec. 31. Reaching a trade deal by then would ensure there are no tariffs and trade quotas on goods exported or imported by the two sides, although there would still be technical costs, partly associated with customs checks and non-tariff barriers on services.

The talks would surely have collapsed by now, were the interests and economic costs at stake not so massive. But because the EU is an economic power of 450 million and Britain has major diplomatic and security interests beyond its own commercial might, the two sides want to explore every last chance to get a deal before they become acrimonious rivals.

"Whilst recognizing the seriousness of these differences, we agreed that a further effort should be undertaken by our negotiating teams to assess whether they can be resolved," Johnson and von der Leyen said after speaking by phone for about an hour.

"We are therefore instructing our chief negotiators to reconvene tomorrow in Brussels," the pair said in their statement, adding that they would reassess the chances of success on Monday night.

The two leaders noted that progress has been achieved in many areas but that divisions remain on fishing rights, the "level playing field"—the standards the U.K. must meet to export into the bloc — and how future disputes are resolved.

"Both sides underlined that no agreement is feasible if these issues are not resolved," von der Leyen and Johnson said Saturday.

An EU source, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks were still ongoing, said the fair competition rules that the U.K. should meet before it can export tariff-free into the 27-nation bloc, were still a major stumbling block.

The main problem at the heart of the negotiations is how to reconcile how Britain wrests itself free of EU rules and the bloc's insistence that no country, however important, should get easy access to its lucrative market by undercutting its high environmental and social standards.

The politically charged issue of fisheries also continue to play an outsized role. The EU has demanded widespread access to U.K. fishing grounds that historically have been open to foreign trawlers. But in Britain, gaining control of the fishing grounds was a main issue for the Brexiteers who pushed for the country to leave the EU.

# Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Home workout.

# As homes become offices, gyms and more, COVID-19 has upended how we think our living spaces should work

By LAUREN LEAZENBY
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

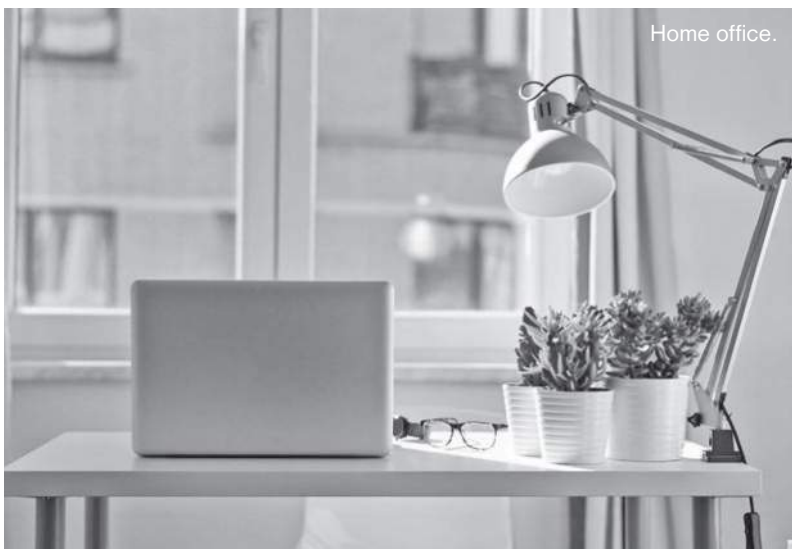
Your home is working overtime during the pandemic. For many, what was once just a dwelling has become classroom, office, restaurant, gym, movie theater and more. COVID-19 has not only kept most of us confined to our quarters for the past six months—it has also altered the very definition of home.

As homebuyers increasingly seek out pandemic-friendly features like home offices and expansive outdoor space, Chicago-area real estate developers, designers and agents are helping them find the features they need to live in this new normal.

In a survey of 1,000 respondents who have bought a home during the COVID-19 pandemic, or plan to by the end of 2020, 40% said the pandemic changed what features they look for in a new house, according to the home listing site Homes.com. One in four say they want a home with larger square footage or an enclosed backyard, while 15% no longer find an open floor plan desirable, according to the survey results published July 29.

As the remote workforce becomes a more permanent fixture in Chicago, one-third of those surveyed said they want a home office. That's a big change from pre-coronavirus priorities, said Kate Marengo, founder of design firm Interior Chicago.

"Home offices are something that has never been a huge part of (what clients want) in the past," Marengo said. "I have people contacting me saying, 'My office is going to be closed through summer next year, and I can't work at my kitchen counter. What can we do to make the space work so I'm not totally cramped in my apartment?'"



Home office.

Briana Cox bought and moved into a condo in Lakeview during the early days of the pandemic in April. Though her relocation wasn't directly due to COVID-19, it did factor into her home search. Like many pandemic home hunters, Cox's top priority in her new place was having adequate space to work from home.

"I really wanted to find a space that had a lot of light, and then had a space for me to set up something close to a home office, a place that I could sit and do work," she said. "I was definitely coming in and assessing whether or not I could put some extra tools in there—can I fit a desk and a chair?"

If she had known before April how much time she would be spending in her condo this year, Cox said she would have picked a place with central air conditioning, bigger windows and more lighting.

"It was a tough decision to really decide if this place was where I want to spend 24 hours a day," she said.

The lockdown complicated the process further, putting all home renovations—from painting to fixing the leaky faucet—on hold. That's something many homeowners are going through, Marengo said.

"I've had some big projects put on hold while people are determining whether they want to leave the city or not," she said, adding that many are moving away because they would like to spend less on housing, or because of the recent unrest in the city. "They're like, 'If I'm going to be putting this place on the market and leaving, I'm just going to do the bare minimum.'"

The pandemic has also changed where home is for many people. Whether or not the national trend of an exodus to the suburbs is playing out in Chicago, 22% of Americans have either relocated or know someone who has due to COVID-19, according to a Pew Research Center study.

For those staying in Chicago, upgrading outdoor space is a top request, Marengo said. One of her clients, for example, needed a deck expansion to give the client and her toddler more space to play as they spend more time at home.

In apartment complexes, the trend in outdoor space is sliding away from private balconies, said Ann Thompson, senior vice president of architecture and design at Related Midwest, the company behind developments like One Bennett Park, The 78, Lathrop and the Taylor Street Apartments and Library.

Instead, people are looking for expansive, outdoor common spaces with accommodations like grilling cabanas, outdoor pools, lounge furniture and fire pits, she said.

"I think it's that variety of experiences and the size of these spaces that have been so helpful during COVID," Thompson said. "It's not just a place where you can put a chair and have a little grill. These are places that are truly extensions of your living space, but even better than your backyard at a single-family home, because they have specific activity accommodations."

Renters, she said, don't have to choose what activities to devote limited space to. Instead, their homes can encompass shared spaces such as swimming pools, outdoor dining, dog runs and vast green space. Thompson herself moved from a single-family home to an apartment during the pandemic and said the move simplified her life.

"The Chicago renter is starting to be more sophisticated, and they understand how important these peripheral spaces are to their lifestyle," Thompson said. "Because you're not just renting an apartment; you're choosing a lifestyle."

Still, even residences with ample amenities aren't typically equipped to handle all aspects of living. People still want to shop for groceries, dine out or get their nails done. But some apartment complexes are working to foster an all-inclusive lifestyle where residents would, theoretically, never have to leave the building.

In Streeterville, Optima Signature provides a host of resident amenities, from rentable business suites to a two-floor health and fitness center. Services include an on-site chef, a restaurant, a nail salon and a veterinarian.

Mark Segal, senior vice president of Optima, said the Glencoe-based real estate developer wants to make life easier for residents—particularly during as stressful a time as a global pandemic.

"Time has become one of the more precious commodities, and things that focus on delivering convenience and the quality of life ... are the focus for so many folks," he said.

Optima Signature also has an indoor connection to an adjacent Whole Foods Market. "It offers the convenience of being able to do grocery shopping and limit what your interactions with other folks will be," Segal said.

Renters are looking for COVID-19 safety measures in their new homes—like the electrostatic disinfecting of Optima's common areas, Segal said. Some of those pandemic safety features also add convenience, like in-home package delivery.

"Everyone is dealing with today's circumstances differently," Segal said. "Everyone is having their own experience today, so it really is a wide range of things that people are looking for in terms of how to manage their own lives at this time."

# Life & Style

## In seismic shift, Warner Bros. to stream all 2021 films

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

**NEW YORK** (AP)—In the most seismic shift by a Hollywood studio yet during the pandemic, Warner Bros. Pictures on Thursday announced that all of its 2021 film slate—including a new "Matrix" movie, "Godzilla vs. Kong" and the Lin-Manuel Miranda adaptation "In the Heights"—will stream on HBO Max at the same time the films play in theaters.

Among the myriad release plan changes wrought by the pandemic, no studio has so fully embraced streaming as a lifeline. But after disappointing domestic ticket sales for "Tenet," and with the majority of U.S. theaters currently closed, the AT&T-owned Warner Bros. will turn to a hybrid distribution model next year. Films will debut simultaneously in theaters and on HBO Max in the U.S. After one month, they will stop streaming and continue to play only in theaters.

The move follows Warner Bros.' decision to put "Wonder Woman 1984" on HBO Max in December, along with a concurrent theatrical run. If that pivot sent shockwaves through the industry, Thursday's announcement rattled Hollywood to the core.

"Given the unprecedented time that we're in, we needed a creative solution to address our fans, our filmmakers and our exhibitors, said Ann Sarnoff, chief executive of WarnerMedia Studios, in an interview. "Big and bold is a necessity right now."

Sarnoff called it a "temporary solution" and a "one-year plan." The studio said other options—releasing big-budget films solely in reduced capacity theaters or delaying films another year—weren't appealing. Warner Bros.' move amounts to an acknowledgement that any full rebound for theaters is still a year or more away.

"We've got to get people back in theaters at full capacity at some point. If you read the medical experts that's going to take a while to work its way through the system," said Sarnoff. "If we saw an end in sight to the pandemic, we might have a different strategy. But we don't see that at this moment."

HBO Max is only available in the United States. Internationally, the studio's 17 films planned for 2021 release will roll out exclusively in theaters.

Warner Bros.' decision resonates especially because the 117-year-old studio of "Casablanca" and "Harry Potter" has long been a market-leader in Hollywood—and one known as especially supportive of theaters. The studio has generally ranked among the top two studios in market share over the past decade—most recently dwarfed only by Walt Disney. Warner's films typically account for $1.5-2 billion annual in ticket sales in North America—a lot of money to compensate for in HBO Max subscribers. Warner Bros. confirmed the films will be available to subscribers with no further charge.

"I can't comment on the economics of how it will all work—I'd need a crystal ball for that," said Sarnoff. "But I'm very optimistic that this is a win-win-win for our fans, our filmmakers and our exhibitors. We're getting the movies out. We're allowing them be seen on the big screen which is what they were made for, but giving an alternative. The hybrid approach also allows us to market them in a fuller way than we would have had we just looked at the less-than-full capacities in theatrical right now."

Warner Bros.' 2021 slate includes many of the expected top movies of the year, including "Dune," "The Suicide Squad," "Tom & Jerry," "The Conjuring: The Devil Make Me Do It," "King Richard" and "Judas and the Black Messiah."

The move by Warner Bros. only makes the pain being felt by exhibitors all the more acute. Having been shuttered for much of the year, cinemas reopened nationwide in late summer except in some key locations, including Los Angeles and New York. But with most major releases postponed and virus cases surging, about 60% of theaters have since closed again. Regal Cinemas, the country's second largest chain, has shut all its doors. Following Warner Bros.' announcement, shares of AMC Entertainment fell 16%; Cinemark was down 22%.

## California monolith pops up after finds in Utah, Romania

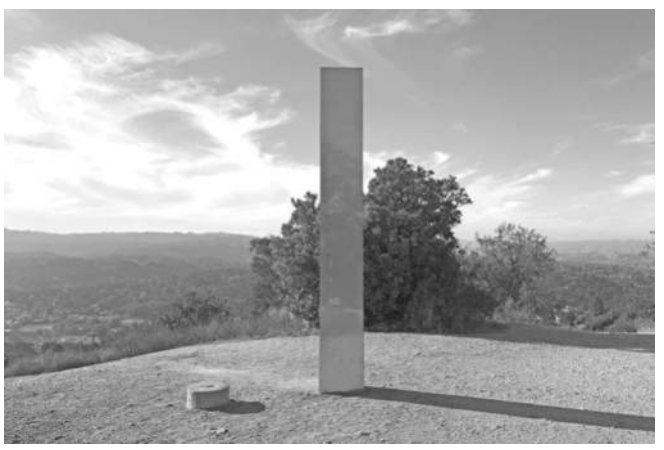
**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Days after the discovery and swift disappearance of two shining metal monoliths half a world apart, another towering structure has popped up and then quickly vanished, this time from the pinnacle of a trail in California.

After photos were posted on social media, the tall, silver metallic structure drew hikers to the top of the Pine Mountain trail in an Atascadero park, halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles, KEYT-TV reported Wednesday.

The 3-sided, 10-foot-tall, 200-pound monolith was similar to two others discovered recently in the Utah desert and in Romania. Like those structures, the origin of the California edifice is also unknown.

But by Thursday, the California monolith had vanished, apparently torn down by a group of young men that traveled five hours from farther south to remove it, the city of Atascadero said in a Facebook post.

Video posted online showed a group of young men wearing night-vision goggles toppling what appears to be the monolith before dawn while chanting "Christ is king" and "America First." One man also is heard saying to the camera: "We don't want illegal aliens from Mexico or outer space."



AP

A monolith stands on a Stadium Park hillside in Atascadero, Calif., Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2020.

The men replaced the structure with a wooden cross, which also disappeared. All that was left Thursday of the monolith were few pieces of supporting rebar.

Police were reviewing the video, The Tribune of San Luis Obispo County reported.

The destruction wasn't appreciated by locals.

"We are upset that these young men felt the need to drive 5 hours to come into our community and vandalize the monolith," Mayor Heather Moreno said in a press release. "The monolith was something unique and fun in an otherwise stressful time."

"Bummer," Matt Cadaret, a gravedigger at a nearby cemetery, told the San Francisco Chronicle. He had planned to hike up to see the structure.

"It's too bad it's gone," he said. "People were real excited about it. Anything that gets people excited is a good thing."

Another monolith spotted two weeks ago in Utah's otherworldly red-rock country became a beacon of fascination around the world as it evoked the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey" and drew hundreds of people to the remote spot.

Two extreme sports athletes said they were part of a group that tore down the hollow metal structure because they were worried about the damage the droves of visitors were causing to the relatively untouched spot. Officials said the visitors flattened plants with their cars and left behind human waste.

A structure that appeared last week in Romania is also gone.

The Utah creation evoked famous land-art pieces that dot the West. Robert Smithson's Spiral Jetty is an earthwork along the Great Salt Lake and Nancy Holt's Sun Tunnels are huge concrete pieces in the desert.

Like those pieces, the monolith was fascinating in part because of its context in the landscape, said Whitney Tassie, a curator of modern and contemporary art at the Utah Museum of Fine Art.

## Chill in the air is the source of heated household debate

DEAR ABBY: I am a 46-year-old woman, about to be married for the second time. My fiance lives with me and my two children from my previous marriage.

Other than cooking breakfast and some quick snacks, he does not contribute to the household. My issue is, I pay all the bills, and he complains about the temperature inside my home. My children and I need it to be cooler. If it's too hot, we sweat and become congested, which we hate, and it makes us irritable. I tell him to put on more clothes if he is cold, but he complains to the point that I turn off the fans and air.

My question is, don't I have a right to be comfortable in the home I pay for? He doesn't pay, so he should adjust to our climate. Right?

HOT & FRUSTRATED IN VIRGINIA

**DEAR HOT & FRUSTRATED: The answers to your questions are yes and yes. And your fiance—not you—should invest in a portable heater, which may solve his problem.**

**P.S. Are you ABSOLUTELY sure you want to be married to this prize? Nowhere in your letter did you say you love this person. Not once did you mention his endearing qualities. Frankly, from your description, he seems like a third child.**

**DEAR ABBY:** My dad passed away 25 years ago when I was barely a teen. My boyfriend proposed in March, and we are planning our nuptials next fall.

As a girl, I dreamed my dad would walk me down the aisle. I would now like my uncle to step in and fill that role. He has a daughter who is older than I am. She has been married for many years. Out of respect, I would like to ask her if she's OK with my asking her father. I'm pretty sure she won't mind, but I feel asking her is the right thing to do. I'm unsure how to go about it. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated. -

MARRYING IN MAINE

**DEAR MARRYING: Congratulations on your forthcoming nuptials. What you are considering is not unusual and, frankly, it's a great compliment to your uncle. I think your idea of running it by your cousin is sensitive as well as prudent. The discussion would be more loving and productive if you conduct it in person or by phone rather than a text or email. I can see no reason why she shouldn't be thrilled for you and her dad.**

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a job I love. My co-workers are nice, but once I punch out at the end of the day, I want to forget them. I believe that's how it should be, but some of them try to arrange meet-ups after work to hang out. Or they insist on becoming my friend on social media. I don't consider them social friends, and I don't think they need to know the details of my private life. Is there a nice way to tell these people to back off a little because we only work together?

NINE TO FIVE IN NEW YORK

**DEAR NINE TO FIVE: When you are invited to hang out after work, explain that you have things you need to do or previous commitments. And as for sharing your personal information with them online, all you have to say is that you prefer to keep your business and personal lives separate.**

*To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.*

## DEAR ABBY

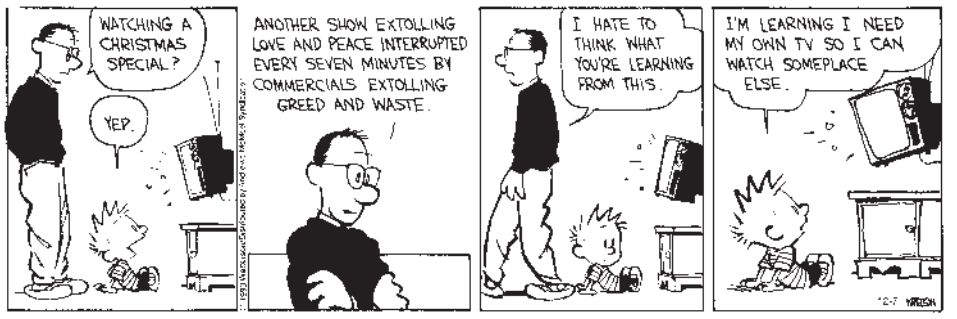
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WATCHING A CHRISTMAS SPECIAL?
YEP.
ANOTHER SHOW EXTOLLING LOVE AND PEACE INTERRUPTED EVERY SEVEN MINUTES BY COMMERCIALS EXTOLLING GREED AND WASTE.
I HATE TO THINK WHAT YOU'RE LEARNING FROM THIS.
I'M LEARNING I NEED MY OWN TV SO I CAN WATCH SOMEPLACE ELSE.

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

DID YOU FINISH YOUR EMAIL TO SANTA?
SURE DID
DID YOU LIE ABOUT BEING GOOD?
I "EMBELLISHED"
"...AND THEN I RESCUED PUPPIES FROM A BURNING ORPHANAGE..."

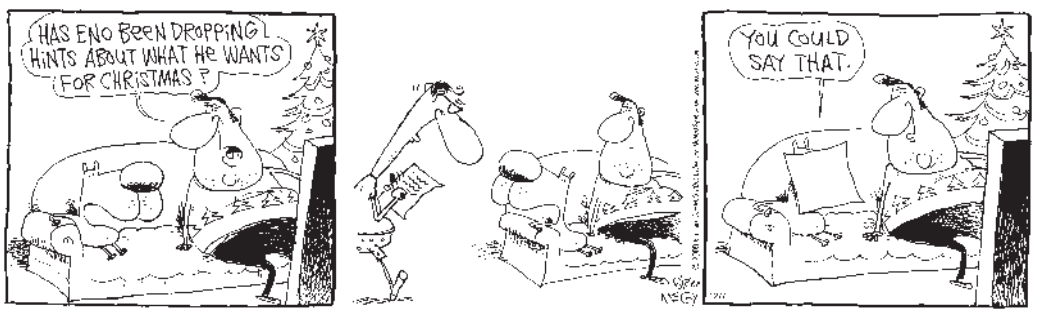
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHERE ARE THE CHRISTMAS COOKIES?
WHAT CHRISTMAS COOKIES?
THE GARRETTS ALWAYS BRING US A BIG PLATE OF COOKIES ON DECEMBER 6TH. EVERY YEAR.
I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS THEY'RE JUST LATE?
MY STOMACH IS ON A TIGHT SCHEDULE!!
I KNOW. HAVE YOU HAD YOUR 2:30 KIT KAT?

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy




## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**

1 Float gently
5 Cardinal cap letters
8 Christmas tree, often
12 Hit song by ABBA
14 Milky gem
15 Bathroom basin
16 Speck
17 Shred
18 The "L" of LBJ
20 Heroic tales
23 Russian denial
24 "East of Eden" son
25 "Baloney!"
28 Tofu source
29 Deep sleeps
30 "I — Rock"
32 Shower cloth
34 Item on stage
35 City district
36 React to reveille
37 Sesame paste
40 Punk rock offshoot
41 Blunder
42 Head-to-toe cleanser
47 "Meet Me — Louis"
48 Daily Planet reporter
49 Bank charges
50 Newt
51 Boutique

**DOWN**

1 URL part
2 Small battery
3 U.S. Army bases
4 Capital of Iran
5 Sty chow
6 Road rescue
7 Dawdle
8 Starting place on a map
9 Apple product
10 Post-WWII alliance
11 Flair
13 Baseball stats
19 Ever-greens
20 Airline to Sweden
21 In — (lined up)
22 Spanish artist
23 Wanderer
25 Dreadful
26 Rani's wrap
27 Med. plan options
29 "Rush Hour" actor Jackie
31 Mimic
33 Swallows' cousins
34 Roams stealthily
36 Tan and Irving
37 End-of-week letters
38 Top-notch
39 Nozzle site
40 Work on proofs
43 Gut-punch reaction
44 "That feels good!"
45 — -cone
46 With it, once

Solution time: 26 mins.

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| R | U | T | ■ | C | B | E | R | ■ | R | I | F | T |
| A | M | A | ■ | A | R | I | A | ■ | E | D | I | E |
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| ■ | I | I | E | ■ | S | E | I | N | E | ■ | A | O |
| H | ■ | O | E | P | A | H | K | ■ | L | C | D | S |
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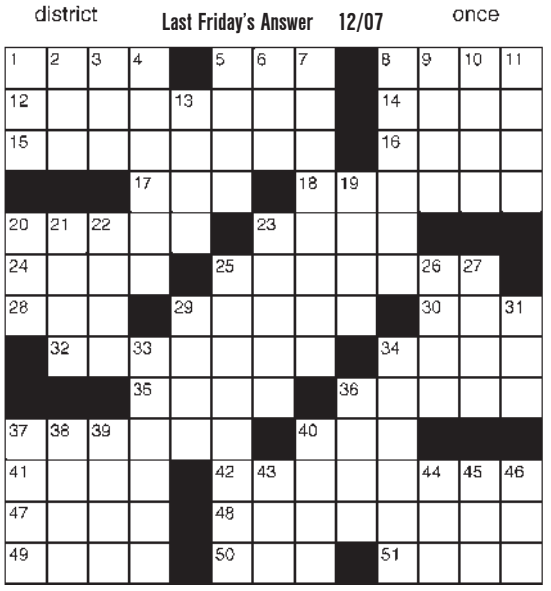
Last Friday's Answer 12/07



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Emily Browning, 32; C. Thomas Howell, 54; Tom Waits, 71; Ellen Burstyn, 88.

**Happy Birthday:** Take control, think matters through and consider your pursuits carefully. Listen to what others say, and assess the pros and cons. Search for what feels comfortable, and take steps that ensure a better future. Refuse to let your emotions override practicality. The research will put your mind at ease and encourage you to make good decisions. Your numbers are 8, 19, 23, 29, 35, 46, 49.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Observe, research and make your move. Don't let uncertainty get you down; initiate what you want to do wholeheartedly, and don't look back. It's time to take control and bring about the changes that will lead to a better future. 3 stars

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* Emotional spending will turn out to be costly. If you want to change, go about it smartly. Size up what's reasonable, and look for practical ways to reach your goal. You can accomplish plenty if you take the steps necessary to ensure success. ✪✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Set your sights on a reasonable goal, and don't let anyone confuse you with gibberish. Take a look at what others are doing, and ask experts for advice when in doubt. Make decisions based on facts, not emotions or peer pressure. ✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Work with what you've got, and turn your ideas into a reality. Fix up your surroundings to accommodate your lifestyle. A unique joint venture will turn out to be lucrative as well as give you an emotional boost. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep your emotions in check when dealing with sensitive issues. Say less, and listen to complaints and criticism earnestly. The information you receive will help you make positive changes that will improve your life and relationships. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Problems at home will mount if you aren't willing to compromise. A change to your environment or surroundings will help you realize what you want. Sum up your alternatives, and take steps to improve your life. Don't dismiss an opportunity. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take charge, bring about change and don't look back. Living in the past will be your demise. Focus on moving forward. Discuss your plans with someone close to you. A common goal will promote a better connection with someone you love. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't get all worked up over something you cannot change. Look for alternative routes that will help you channel your skills and energy into something more suitable. Use your imagination, be innovative and embrace change. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take the initiative to engage in physical and mental challenges that encourage good health and fitness. Invest time and energy into setting up a routine that helps you continue to strive for positive goals, better relationships and a brighter future. ✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A change to how you handle your finances, health or legal matters may not turn out as anticipated. Don't believe everything someone tells you. Be resourceful, and leave nothing to chance. Update your image. ✪✪✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take an active role when it comes to your professional goals. If you want to make a change, update your resume to suit the current job market. Be bold, and discuss your ideas and concerns. Don't take a risk with your health. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Not everyone will be in sync with you. Be careful who you share your ideas or beliefs with to avoid a situation that will put you in a vulnerable position. Focus on how you can make a difference, not a disturbance. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are impressionable, outgoing and accommodating. You are proactive and hardworking.

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## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 6 | | 3 | 9 | | 1 | | |
| 1 | | 9 | 8 | | 5 | | | |
| | 3 | | | | | | | 4 |
| 8 | 9 | | | 2 | | | 4 | |
| 5 | | | 1 | | 4 | | | 7 |
| | 4 | | | 8 | | | 3 | 5 |
| 6 | | | | | | | 2 | |
| | | | 2 | | 3 | 4 | | 6 |
| | | 2 | | 7 | 6 | | 8 | |

Difficulty Level ★ 12/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 4 |
| 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 7 |
| 7 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| 5 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| 2 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 8 |
| 8 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| 4 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 9 |
| 9 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 3 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

**GROUPON** Solution: 7 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | S | M | T | R | E | C | N | O | C | I | L | B | U | P |
| L | I | E | E | L | S | C | O | S | M | E | T | I | C | Y |
| R | A | S | I | A | T | A | S | T | D | E | A | L | T | (E) |
| E | N | B | C | R | L | N | V | N | I | R | M | U | (L) | U |
| B | O | A | O | O | O | S | M | E | D | I | A | (A) | C | L |
| M | E | X | C | L | U | S | I | V | E | E | (S) | W | N | A |
| E | C | A | A | I | G | N | S | E | B | Y | S | I | E | V |
| V | L | S | M | K | R | Y | T | E | O | E | A | O | T | R |
| O | O | P | A | Y | M | E | N | T | C | G | G | N | C | L |
| N | T | S | S | P | B | N | M | T | R | C | E | L | E | T |
| C | H | N | O | P | U | O | C | A | R | N | A | I | L | S |
| A | I | I | N | C | Y | M | B | S | P | A | S | N | L | E |
| R | N | S | E | C | I | V | R | E | S | U | V | E | O | F |
| T | G | S | S | T | N | A | H | C | R | E | M | E | C | A |
| C | H | I | C | A | G | O | L | E | M | O | T | E | L | C |

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**Last Friday's Answer: Accident**

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# Teams that break virus protocols may lose games, picks

AP

In this Aug. 3, 2020 file photo, New Orleans Pelicans' Zion Williamson (1) is fouled by Memphis Grizzlies' Jaren Jackson Jr. (13) as he shoots over Grizzlies' Jonas Valanciunas (17) during the second half of an NBA game in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Preseason games for the new season will start this Friday.

**NEW YORK** (AP)—NBA teams that do not comply with league rules designed to minimize the spread of the coronavirus this season could face major penalties such as forfeiting games or draft picks, the league told its franchises Saturday.

The league also said that it and the National Basketball Players Association will discuss players, coaches and other staff "being required to receive a coronavirus vaccine" when it becomes available, strongly urged teams to encourage players and personnel to get flu shots, and said that effective immediately Tier 1 and Tier 2 personnel—which basically means players, coaches and some essential staff—must avoid bars, lounges, clubs even if food is served, most live entertainment or gaming venues, public gyms, spas and pool areas.

Also off-limits: indoor gatherings of 15 or more people. Those rules apply both when teams are at home and when they are on the road, the NBA said. Preseason games start Friday and the regular season begins Dec. 22.

The protocols document, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, has much more detail than the draft version that was distributed to teams last weekend. The rules and protocols in the updated document—which even includes examples of how seating charts on planes and buses could be set up—have been agreed upon by the NBA and the NBPA.

"The biggest thing is obviously, from what we've been told, is the testing on the daily," Philadelphia forward Tobias Harris said earlier in the week as the protocols were being finalized. "And guys holding each other accountable to be safe and limit exposure from outside people or whatever. For me, it's a bit confusing because you never know. You could go into a grocery store and you may get the virus somehow, right? So, I think it's a fine line, but I think we have to do our best to follow protocol, keep each other safe, keep the team safe and just see how it plays out."

Starting Sunday, the testing program—players and coaches will be checked daily, and 48 players were found to be positive before training camps even began—will begin to include immediate families, if they so desire. Teams have been told by the NBA to work with BioReference, the league's testing provider, to make voluntary PCR testing available for all household members of Tier 1 and Tier 2 individuals twice a week. The household members of those Tier 1 and Tier 2 individuals are also being urged to get flu shots.

"We're just trying to follow the guidelines, do it as best we can," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said earlier in the week. "It's not easy, but everybody's got to go through it. We're just trying to navigate our way through it."

The league made clear in the final protocols that if teams don't take the health and safety rules seriously, a serious price will be paid.

As written in the new rules: "Protocol violations that result in COVID-19 spread that requires adjustments to the NBA game schedule or otherwise impacts any other team may subject the violating team to additional penalties, which may include fines, suspensions, adjustment or loss of draft choices, and/or game forfeiture."

The NFL has fined teams and coaches for not wearing masks and following protocols; just in the last week, the New England Patriots were fined $350,000 for violations and the New Orleans Saints were fined $500,000 plus had a seventh-round pick taken away following a locker room celebration in which they were not wearing masks.

One key addition to the final version of the NBA protocols: Teams, when they go on the road, will have some freedoms and will not be forced to stay in their hotels when not practicing or playing.

The league and the union will work with teams to identify at least three eateries in all markets that will be designated as "approved restaurants" for meals on the road. That doesn't necessarily mean people will be limited; members of traveling parties will be allowed by the league to "go to any restaurant on the road, so long as the restaurant complies with all state and local laws or regulations related to COVID-19"—though teams could also institute their own restrictions if they deem it necessary.

## *Injuries play role in AD's long-term deal with Lakers*

**CALIFORNIA**—Los Angeles Lakers star Anthony Davis wanted protection against a career-threatening injury with his new contract. Though Davis considered signing a two- or three-year deal with the Lakers, injury concerns convinced Davis to take a five-year, $190 million deal with the team, according to ESPN.

Davis admitted as much Friday, saying his injury history influenced him to secure a big deal now.

"That could have been a two-year, three-year deal," Davis told reporters on a video conference call Friday. "[But] I have to think about, also, the reality of things, too. I do have a little history with injuries, and a two-year deal, you kind of bet on yourself. ... God forbid, knock on wood, something happens."

Davis has never made it through a full NBA season without missing a game. With the New Orleans Pelicans, Davis played in 466 out of a possible 574 games due to various injuries, according to ESPN. Davis missed nine games last season—his first with the Lakers—due to shoulder and tailbone issues. He was able to play in all 21 of the Lakers' postseason games, but dealt with an ankle injury that required six hours of treatment prior to Game 6 of the NBA Finals.

Those bumps and bruises convinced Davis to "secure the most amount of years possible."

While it's easy to assume Davis was always going to take the biggest deal, that's not necessarily the case. Some analysts were unsure whether Davis would commit to the Lakers once LeBron James' contract ended. James initially signed a four-year, $154 million deal with the Lakers in 2018. That contract would have taken James through the 2021-22 NBA season. James, however, agreed to a two-year, $85 million extension Wednesday that keeps him under contract with the Lakers through the 2022-23 NBA season.

Davis could have stayed on the same free-agent timeline as James by taking a three-year deal with the Lakers, but instead opted to commit to Los Angeles for two additional seasons. Those final years could come without James, who could leave the Lakers or retire when he hits the market after the 2022-23 NBA season.

### National TV games

The first half of the NBA's 2020-21 season schedule is out, and the league has opted to give the Lakers more national TV games than any other team.

The Lakers will have 16 of their first 37 games on either ABC, ESPN or TNT to open the season, two more than any other team in the NBA. That total reaches 23 if you add the seven games on NBA TV, which wasn't counted in the schedule census.

Behind the Lakers is a four-way tie for second with 14 each between the Boston Celtics, Dallas Mavericks, New Orleans Pelicans and Golden State Warriors. On the other hand, seven teams has a whopping zero such games: the Cleveland Cavaliers, Sacramento Kings, Orlando Magic, Detroit Pistons, San Antonio Spurs, Oklahoma City Thunder and Washington Wizards.

With five more teams having only one game, and three others with two, three and four each, that means the Lakers have more games on ABC, ESPN or TNT than literally half of the NBA's teams combined.

### Westbrook happy to be at DC

Russell Westbrook made a few things clear Saturday. He will remain a Dallas Cowboys fan even though he's now playing in Washington, he's not going to abandon his policy against being friendly with opponents during games, and he doesn't think a championship necessarily completes a player's resume.

There's also one issue that he declined to clear up: Whether he forced his way out of Houston or not.

"Obviously, I'm not the easiest guy to understand," Westbrook said.

The Wizards clearly don't mind. Westbrook was at practice on Saturday with the Wizards, the team that sent former No. 1 overall pick John Wall to Houston earlier in the week to acquire the nine-time All-Star who'll now reunite with Washington coach Scott Brooks—his former Oklahoma City coach.

Washington becomes Westbrook's third team in a year and a half: He was traded by Oklahoma City to Houston after the 2018-19 season, spent just the one year with the Rockets, and now joins the Wizards to play alongside Bradley Beal in what should be an extremely potent backcourt.

He was asked if he wanted a trade from Houston.

"I'm here in Washington," Westbrook replied. "Happy about where I'm at and understanding that this is a new journey for me and understanding how important it is to focus on where I'm at, focus on the team, focus on the organization, the community, the people here."

That obviously wasn't a yes or a no. To Westbrook, it's all part of the past now anyway. ***(AP/NBC)***

# AFC playoff picture: Ravens' postseason in jeopardy

**MARYLAND**—The Baltimore Ravens have lost the last three games, falling to 6-5 on the 2020 season. Though the losses were somewhat expected well before each kicked off, time is quickly running out for Baltimore to secure a playoff spot and those losses loom large on the schedule.

As it stands right now, the Ravens wouldn't be in the postseason if the playoffs were to start today. Sitting at No. 9 in the playoff hunt with just seven seeds available, Baltimore needs to not only start winning games but hope for some of their peers to start losing in a hurry.

Take a look at each team currently in the AFC playoff picture and where the Ravens stand in comparison.

AP

Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster (19) tries to fend off Baltimore Ravens cornerback Tramon Williams after making a catch during the second half of an NFL game Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020, in Pittsburgh.

### No. 1 seed Pittsburgh Steelers (11-0)

The Steelers remain the league's only undefeated team, though they were certainly pushed to the limit by a very thin Ravens team Wednesday. Though Pittsburgh has had one of the softest schedules this season, racking up wins over very easy competition, they are winning the games they should be winning. But with week after week in which they allow bad teams to keep games close, it seems like a matter of time before they slip up.

### No. 2 seed Kansas City Chiefs (10-1)

Kansas City got quite an interesting test in Week 12, playing against Tom Brady and Tampa Bay to a close finish. Though they were up by 17 points early in the fourth quarter, they were able to finish strong enough to hold on to a three-point victory. There's no denying the Chiefs' offense is awesome but there were doubts about the defense. It might not have been the prettiest showing but they got the job done against the most loaded offense in the league, which points to Kansas City once again being among the best teams in the NFL.

### No. 3 seed Tennessee Titans (8-3)

The strategy for Tennessee has been apparent this season: Run Derrick Henry hard and ask quarterback Ryan Tannehill to be efficient without major mistakes. It's a winning strategy considering the Titans blew the Colts out of the water in Week 12, having a 24-point lead entering the fourth quarter and beating them by 19 points in total. Much like last season, anyone that underestimates Tennessee, how tough they are, and how difficult it is to stop Henry is in for a rude surprise. The bigger question is if that Titans defense can improve enough by the playoffs to be a more consistent threat.

### No. 4 seed - Buffalo Bills (8-3)

Buffalo might just be on of the most well-rounded teams in the NFL this season. That proved true once again in Week 12 over the Los Angeles Chargers. The team got great results on the ground, rushing for 172 yards and a touchdown on 30 carries for a 5.7 yards-per-carry average. Quarterback Josh Allen was far from perfect but was good enough to get the job done, completing 75% of his passes for 157 yards, one touchdown, and one interception. The defense was effective enough to limit the Chargers on the ground and keep rookie quarterback Justin Herbert from taking over the game on his 52 pass attempts. Buffalo is right where they want to be as the playoffs get closer. They're at the top of their division, though just by a hair over the Dolphins. They're playing solid football and look capable of beating anyone if they play an outstanding game. That's the recipe for postseason magic.

### No. 5 seed Cleveland Browns (8-3)

Like the rest of the AFC North, Cleveland has had a little help by way of a softer schedule. For the third consecutive week, the Browns played a team well below .500 and just barely squeaked by them. In Week 12, that meant beating the 1-10 Jacksonville Jaguars by just two points. On a three-game winning streak, Cleveland still needs to finish the season strong to guarantee themselves a playoff spot. With games against the Titans and Ravens in the next two weeks, we'll see if the Browns are truly a playoff team or if they've been racking up wins against bad teams to get this far.

### No. 6 seed Miami Dolphins (7-4)

You have to hand it to the Dolphins. They've changed quarterback twice and are still very much in the early stages of rebuilding their roster. Yet, they're currently in the playoff seeding and have a clear road forward. Even if they don't end up making the cut, they've proven themselves as an up-and-coming team worthy of discussing at this level. Coming off a decent win over the Jets and playing the Bengals this week, Miami looks to be heading toward double-digit wins. They've beaten tough teams like the Rams, Chargers, 49ers, and Cardinals. But they still have games against the Chiefs, Patriots, Raiders, and Bills to close out their season, which might just be where they falter and open up room for a team like the Ravens to sneak into the postseason.

### No. 7 seed Indianapolis Colts (7-4)

If the Bills are one of the most consistent teams this season, the Colts are the opposite. They've lost to teams like the Jaguars, Browns, and Ravens while beating teams like the Titans and Packers. Seemingly, every week depends on which version of quarterback Philip Rivers shows up. If he plays well, Indianapolis usually wins the game. But in the five games where Rivers has had below an 89 passer rating (out of 158.3), the Colts have lost four times. Most recently, it came against the Titans, who ran all over Indianapolis and held Rivers to a 57.1% completion rate, two touchdowns, and one interception for an 84.9 passer rating. The Colts are one game behind Tennessee for the top spot in the AFC South. Having split the series 1-1, they have a shot to win the division still, which could throw a pretty big wrench into Baltimore's playoff hopes. But two games against the Texans, a game against the Raiders, and another against the Steelers is a tough remaining schedule and could see them fall out of contention entirely.

### In the hunt

The Las Vegas Raiders (6-5), Baltimore Raves (6-5), and New England Patriots (5-6) are seeded No. 8 to 9, respectively,

Admittedly, the Ravens aren't exactly great as it stands right now but there's a clear path forward for the Ravens to get in. They're a game out of the seeding right now and realistically need to win a minimum of four of the five remaining games to have a good shot to get into the playoffs. However, if we look closer at the schedule, it's Week 14 against the Browns that is the most vital game remaining. A win over Cleveland is likely going to be needed regardless of what the Ravens do beyond that game. Barring a complete collapse from the Browns the rest of the way, they seem set up to finish around 10-6 or 11-5 with the Week 14 matchup key in deciding who will make the cut. There are still a million scenarios still possible but Baltimore can all but guarantee themselves a spot in the dance if they win out. Anything less than that is when in-depth math is needed to figure out extreme tiebreaker scenarios.

## PSG plays down Messi move; works on new deal for Mbappe

**FRANCE**—Paris Saint-Germain sporting director Leonardo on Saturday played down the possibility of Lionel Messi joining the French champions.

Following Wednesday's Champions League win at Manchester United, Neymar—a former team-mate of Messi's at Barcelona—said he would like to play alongside the Argentina forward again.

"We have to respect Messi and Barcelona. Messi is a Barcelona player. When someone talks abut our player, we're unhappy, so we don't talk about other clubs' players," he told Canal+.

"It's not the time to talk about that, to talk about the transfer window, we're thinking about our season, our goals, staying focused. We have the squad to do that, a competitive team even if we rotate players."

On Friday, Barca coach Ronald Koeman criticised interim club president Carles Tusquets who said earlier in the week they should have sold the record six-time Ballon d'Or winner during the summer.

The 33-year-old made an attempt to leave the Camp Nou before backing down in September, although he is free to leave next year.

Additionally, Brazilian Leonardo said talks are ongoing with France World Cup winner Kylian Mbappe about a new deal, with his contract up in June 2022.

"It's moving along well. We've taken steps forward compared to 10 or 15 years ago, we'll keep on going," he said.

Meanwhile, English soccer fans were allowed back into stadiums for the first time in almost a year on Saturday, but Millwall supporters didn't even make it to kickoff of the second-tier club's match against Derby County before lustily booing both teams for taking a knee to call attention to systemic racism.

Ever since English teams returned to the field last summer after an unplanned, months-long break caused by the coronavirus pandemic, players, coaches and have been taking a knee before games in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

This year, teams and officials have continued to kneel as part of the English soccer's "No Room For Racism" campaign. But that apparently didn't sit well with fans of London club Millwall.

# NMIVA election, general meeting set for Dec. 10

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association will be holding a general membership assembly this Thursday, Dec. 10, with the group's election of officers and updates on the Pacific Mini Games included on the meeting's agenda.

The meeting will be done virtually and will run from 12:30pm to 1:30pm.

NMIVA president Laurie Peterka will discuss developments about the Pacific Mini Games in her report since beach volleyball is on the calendar of events for the quadrennial competition, which has been moved from 2021 to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Besides updates on the Mini Games that the CNMI will be hosting, Peterka will also report on NMIVA's memorandum of understanding with the Public School System through the PSS Student Support Services Athletic Program, the Norther Marianas Sports Association leadership and program, Federation Internationale de Volleyball grants, and the Marianas Alliance for Non-Governmental Organizations.

Also on the assembly's agenda are the updates on referees, coaches, and other technical part of the sport, the group's financial report, and other issues concerning NMIVA, including health and safety protocols on the pandemic.

Once these issues are discussed, NMIVA will move ahead with the election of officers. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

# Ex-pitcher Young joins Rangers as GM

**ARLINGTON, Texas** (AP)— The Texas Rangers hired Chris Young as executive vice president and general manager Friday, bringing the Major League Baseball executive home to work under president of baseball operations Jon Daniels, the club's GM since 2005.

Young pitched 13 seasons in the majors, the first two with the Rangers after the 6-foot-10 two-sport standout grew up in Dallas and played baseball and basketball at Princeton. The 41-year-old had been with MLB since May 2018.

The return to Texas comes after Young interviewed for the GM opening with the New York Mets, who recently abandoned an effort to hire a president of baseball operations to focus on the GM search.

Young was the senior vice president in charge of on-field operations and the umpires with MLB. He worked closely with the Rangers on baseball issues related to construction of Globe Life Field, which opened this past season.

Young oversaw on-field operations for three rounds of neutral-site playoffs in Arlington this fall. Globe Life was the only venue to have fans during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season.

"As a Dallas native who grew up rooting for the Rangers, I recognize what a special opportunity this is and how much the Rangers mean to this community," said Young, who lives in Dallas with his wife and three children. "I look forward to learning from and working with Jon on a daily basis."

"Chris Young's background and experiences will be a huge asset to our baseball operations group," Daniels said. "He is a very well-regarded executive in our game. Chris' 13-year MLB career, including two seasons with the Rangers, gives him a perspective that is unique in baseball management."

## MLB sues insurance providers

Major League Baseball and all 30 of its teams are suing their insurance providers, citing billions of dollars in losses during the 2020 season played almost entirely without fans due to the coronavirus pandemic.

## SIKKEL

*From Page 20*

Top 3. Both Edvalson and Altizer broke the eight-minute barrier with the former submitting 7:30 and the latter recording 7:37. Sikkel, Edvalson, and Altizer were the only three runners to complete the course under the eight-minute mark.

### SIS gets team top honors

Meanwhile, SIS took the top team honors in the elementary division with Altizer and Culp making it to the Top 2 teams in the individual race.

The co-ed team rankings were determined based on the performance of each school's Top 4 finishers (two boys and two girls). Each runner received points based on their finish and the school with the least points won the overall team championship.

The Geckos collected 29 points with Altizer (2 points) and Culp (5), Suki Peng (10) and Faith Arriola (12). Peng clocked in at 8:18 to finish No. 10 overall, while Arriola took the No. 12 spot after registering 8:36.

Saipan Community School (35) notched the runner-up award in the co-ed team division behind Richard Zhao (8:10) and Jose Sablan's (8:11) 6 and 7 points in the boys division and Emma Sablan and Ali Brasuell's (8:39) 9 and 13 markers in the girls category.

Round out the Top 3 honors in the co-ed team division was Agape, which gained 62 points or just a hair ahead of BSS. Agape drew 4 points from Campell, 15 from Benjamin Cai (8:48), 18 from Reyviel Van Escarlan (9:14), and 25 from Alice Duan (9:51).

Meanwhile, other schools entered in the team event were Kagman Elementary School (113), Isla Montessori School (117), William S. Reyes Elementary School (120), and Rota's Sinapalo Elementary School (160). Mt. Carmel School also joined the finale races, but did not have enough runners to qualify for the team competition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School coach Kathy Ruszala, third left, joins her runners for a group photo before the start of last Friday's elementary division championship race in the 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series at the CPA Airport Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sinapalo Elementary School runners (in yellow t-shirts) head out to the course.

## BUCO

*From Page 20*

categories.

Rechucher won the women's 40 to 44 division after checking in at 3:08:23. Brennfleck timed in at 2:59:02 to prevail against Kathy Ruszala (3:07:03) and Kerri Bauer (3:10:22) in the 40-and-below age group, while Spaeth was the women's overall winner after posting 2:46:52, just two seconds ahead of Ayano Braxton (2:46:54) and Kimiko McKagan (2:47:40).

In the men's 40-and-below division, Remillosa timed in at 2:24:07 to down Ariel John Moses (2:27:41) and Renren Gaviola (2:35:18), while Rio submitted 2:31:36 to edge Edwin Morales (2:40:58) and Elmer Esdrelon (2:46:26) in the 40 to 44 age group.

Dennis Bautista (2:34:24) led the Top 3 finishers in the men's 45 to 49 division and was joined in the podium by Harold Balana (2:36:19), and Enrique Suba (2:45:33). Isip ruled the 50 to 54 age group after checking in at 2:28:10, while Tyce Mister (2:34:32) and Bernard Laborce (3:01:38) rounded out the Top 3.

Tamondong clinched the top honors in the 55 to 59 age groups after registering 2:29:43, while Floro Derexes (2:46:50) and Roger Valencia (2:49:26) were the runners-up. In the 60-and-anove age group, Laxamana recorded 2:38:30 to down Willy Barbo (2:49:31) and Tony Stearns (2:57:26).

JONATHAN IBAJAN

Robyn Spaeth concentrates as she navigates the course in yesterday's Hell of the Marianas race.

**Teams that break virus protocols may lose games, picks**

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**AFC playoff picture: Ravens' postseason in jeopardy**

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# Sikkel, Campbell dominate

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Brilliant Star School's Moshe Sikkel heads to the finish line during last Friday's elementary division championship race in the 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series at the CPA Airport Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Agape Christian School's Jessie Campbell is on her way to ruling the girls U11 division race.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Brilliant Star School's Moshe Sikkel and Agape Christian School's Jessie Campbell reigned supreme in the elementary division of the 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series after topping last Friday's championship races.

Sikkel, who won all the qualifying events this season, capped his dominance in the boys U11 age group after completing the 1.1-mile run in the finals at the CPA Airport Field in 7:02—his fastest time in the competition.

In the girls U11, Campbell checked in at 8:00 for the sweep in her division, as she also topped all three qualifying events in the elementary in her debut in the CNMI cross country competition.

Campbell received gold medals during the awards ceremony after the finale and were joined in the podium by girls U12 runner-up Elizabeth Culp of Saipan International School and third placer Emma Sablan of Saipan Community School. Culp finished the one-lap race in 8:03, 12 seconds ahead of Sablan.

In the boys U11 division, Akeen Edvalson of Brilliant Star and third placer Finn Altizer of SIS rounded out the

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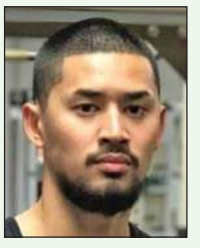
## Beer and the lowdown on muscle soreness

**Ask DRE:**



**By DRE DELOS SANTOS**
*Special to the* Saipan Tribune

*Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for* Saipan Tribune *and* TAGA Sports*. He is a personal trainer at Gold's Gym. He is featured on fitness sites such as Weight Watchers, T-Nation, and STACK.*

I'd wager most of us can probably agree the biggest takeaway of this year is, you can't argue with the incompetent. Or as Tom Hanks in Forrest Gump would say, "Stupid is as stupid does."

In my seven years of professional coaching, it's still kind of perplexing how the simple concepts are the ones most difficult to employ. Hit the gym minimum 2-4 times a week consistently, reasonably high activity level throughout the day, quality nutrition habits, plenty of good sleep, and all that jazz.

It has never been my intention to shame people into adopting an entirely different lifestyle. We all have different circumstances. Still, you have to admit it does make you wonder why we continue to get suckered into silly methods when the proof is in the pudding. Hacks are utterly pointless if you're deviating from the big rocks.

That's all I have to say about that.

**Q: How much of an impact does alcohol have on fat loss and muscle growth?**

**A:** Fortunately, there isn't a huge dampening effect in low-to-moderate doses. And this is particularly noteworthy because most nights I will have a glass or two of Merlot anyway.

Now, where it becomes problematic is in larger doses because it does affect muscle protein synthesis and impair the quality of your sleep. Both of which are huge contributors for body composition improvements. So, much like a piss-poor diet you're essentially undoing the work you put in the gym. Taking both sides into consideration, you should try to find a happy medium.

For goals beyond general health and fitness, obviously you're going to have to limit your consumption to the best of your ability.

**Q: If I'm not getting sore from my workouts, does that mean I'm not progressing?**

**A:** It's a huge mistake to think that chasing crippling muscle soreness and fatigue will accelerate your gains. Using it as a barometer to gauge if you had a good workout or not is a lousy reference point. You certainly want to feel like you've trained the targeted muscle groups, but not to the point where it's going to hamstring your subsequent workouts. Think about it, if you were sore after every workout that would clearly impact the following sessions later in the week.

Soreness is simply an acute response.

## Buco rules Hell of Marianas

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Joel Buco led the finishers list in the 2020 Hell of the Marianas to win the men's road bike category of yesterday's race.

Buco rounded the 68-kilometer course in 2:19:37, reaching the finish line at the former Mariana Resort & Spa more than three minutes ahead of Nap Dizon, who submitted 2:22:51. Arvin Velasco completed the Top 3 finishers in the men's road bike division after checking in at 2:24:01.

This year's Hell of Marianas had a shortened course (instead of the usual 100K distance) due to the COVID-19 pandemic with the more than 50 bikers starting and ending the race at the Mariana Resort & Spa and passing through Mobil Tanapag, 5 Corners (Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, Banzai Cliff, Radar Tower), La Fiesta, and 4 Corners (Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai Cliff).

Meanwhile, the road bike division also featured competitions in various age groups with Fred Remillosa, Jacob Rio, Dennis Baustista, Mark Isip, Robert Tamondong, Virgilio Laxamana, Robyn Spaeth, Shawna Brennfleck, and Yuki Rechucher placing first un their respective

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JONATHAN IBAJAN
Joel Buco heads back to Mariana Resort & Spa to finish the Hell of the Marianas race yesterday.